

## Minimum lending rate cut opens way to cheaper overdrafts

A quarter percentage point cut in the Bank of England's minimum lending rate yesterday—down to 13½ per cent—could lead to a reduction in interest rates.

The fall, the fifth since last autumn, opens the way for the banks to cut overdraft interest. The move will also help building societies to hold mortgage rates.

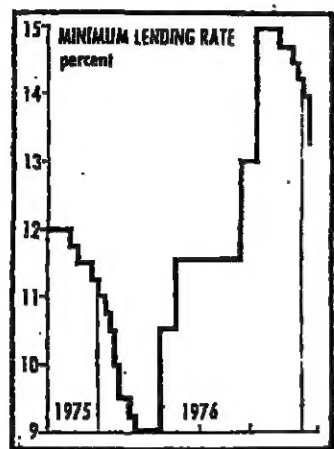
## Lower interest charges heralded

A Westlake survey of the 15 of last autumn, yesterday with a ¼ per cent cut, to 13½ per cent, the Bank of England's lending rate.

The fifth, but largest, cut in the Bank's lending rate since the 1975-76 period, the move is seen as an attempt to encourage growth in the economy and to help the value of the pound in the currency markets.

The move in the M.L.R. is the first since the 1975-76 period, when the rate was raised to 15 per cent in an attempt to curb inflation.

However, the banks' response to the move is not clear. The possibility of a cut in the rate, now 14 per cent, is being considered.



earlier this week that a full one percentage point cut in M.L.R. was in prospect at yesterday's Treasury bill tender, the Bank signalled on several occasions that it desired a reduction of not more than a ¼ percentage point.

Broadly this would be in line with the publicly stated views of both Mr Healey, the Chancellor, and the Prime Minister, that interest rates should be permitted to decline only gradually.

This is because there is still much uncertainty about the future course of the economy. If the forthcoming negotiations with the trade unions on phase three of pay restraint failed to achieve agreement, or if the deficit on the balance of payments was not eliminated as quickly as seems possible, then interest rates could have to be raised sharply, once again.

But the improvement in the economic environment in the last few weeks has prompted a widespread feeling that the way is now open for a rapid decline in interest rates. This is because it would encourage industrial investment and hence raise employment, as well as reducing the burden on the taxpayer of the burgeoning Government debt.

In some quarters it is also argued that the Government's money supply policy is now becoming excessively restrictive and could unnecessarily endanger economic growth in the future. On these grounds a lower level of interest rates is now desirable, according to this view.

## 'Price inflation creeps upward

The economic news last night, and yesterday's report from the Department of Employment, showed an upward creep in the rate of inflation in the first half of 1976, as the summer of 1975, when it was falling very fast, came to an end.

The inflation rate rose to 15 per cent in the first half of 1976, compared with 12 per cent in the second half of 1975.

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line with the Treasury's forecast at the time of the Chancellor's statement last month on cuts in expenditure for the year 1977, namely a rise of 15 per cent between December, 1976, and December, 1977.

Most independent forecasters now expect that rate to be rather exceeded in the early months of 1977, as the effects of the fall in the value of sterling last autumn work their way into prices in the shops. Thereafter the annual rate over six months is expected to fall back towards, and perhaps into, single figures during the second half of this year.

The main influences on prices in December were most food prices, higher mortgage interest payments, motor costs and charges for gas and other fuels. The prices of many other goods and services also rose.



Prince Andrew gets the feel of the ski slopes at Cedar Mountain, Ontario, while out practising with the Lakefield College team.

## Mr Richard puts new plan to Mr Smith

From Michael Kuipe Salisbury, Jan 21

Mr Ivor Richard, the British chairman of the Rhodesian conference on Rhodesia's future, had a two and a half hours meeting here today with Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister. When he emerged he said the discussions had been good and friendly. No decisions had been taken but he would be seeing Mr Smith again on Monday morning.

It is understood that Mr Smith displayed a marked change of attitude compared with that of his last meeting with Mr Richard in Salisbury on January 1, when they were heated exchanges.

After a detailed discussion today of a five-page document containing Britain's proposals for a transitional government, paragraph by paragraph, Mr Richard asked the Rhodesian leader if he could describe the talks as friendly. Mr Smith replied, jokingly, with an obvious reference to the previous stormy meeting: "I thought you'd come in wearing a crash helmet."

The British proposals which were discussed are understood to involve a transitional government headed by a British resident commissioner who would hold a casting vote. There would be a council of ministers and a national security council and two thirds of the members of each would be black.

Mr Smith apparently raised what the British envoy regarded as sensible and legitimate points about the plan, including the envisaged relationship between the proposed council of ministers and the national security council and the powers of the proposed British resident commissioner.

He was clearly concerned over whether the proposed national security council would be effective in maintaining law and order and there were some points on which Mr Smith was not happy.

## Sir Christopher has operation

Sir Christopher Soames, the former EEC Commissioner, underwent a heart operation in London yesterday in which three arteries were bypassed by vein graft. He is expected to leave hospital in about 12 days.

Sir Christopher, a former Tory minister of agriculture, was MP for Bedford from 1950 to 1966 and ambassador to France from 1968 until 1972.

## Conservatives would not ban the closed shop, Mr Prior says

By Christopher Thomas

Close shops would not be banned by a Conservative Government, Mr Prior, Opposition spokesman on employment, made clear yesterday. But in his severest criticism yet of closed shops he laid down five principles for a "center of individual rights."

There had been some notorious examples of restrictive closed shop agreements, he said. It was highly offensive that a closed shop should be established against the wishes of a majority of the workforce and that individuals with strong convictions against union membership should be forced into joining a trade union or dismissed without compensation.

In what amounted to a Tory policy statement, Mr Prior told the South-West Conservative Association: "It is our considered view that an outright ban on the closed shop is likely to prove an ineffective safeguard for individual rights."

Employers, trade unions and management must shoulder their responsibilities rather than turn to government to regulate their activities. But if adequate safeguards were not established by voluntary agreements, a Conservative Government would be prepared to ask Parliament to legislate to protect human rights and individual freedom.

Five points should be observed, he said, in a code of practice:

- 1 Closed shops should be introduced only with the consent of the workforce involved;
- 2 Existing employees should not be forced to join a union against their will;
- 3 Individuals who have strong personal convictions which make it impossible for them to join a union should be exempt;
- 4 Any closed shop agreement should protect the rights of members and non-members whose codes of conduct forbid them to take part in industrial action;
- 5 An independent tribunal should be available to consider cases of people who have strong personal convictions against trade union membership or who are arbitrarily excluded or expelled from particular unions.

Mr Prior said that agreements which required employees to join a trade union as a condition of service cast doubt on the voluntary nature of unions and threatened the individual's freedom of choice. The Conservatives were in general opposed to the whole concept of the closed shop.

But when union membership agreements were outlawed by the Industrial Relations Act they continued widely as tacit understandings. "The existence of such informal understandings is almost impossible to prove and invariably offers more scope for a real restriction of the right to work for individuals affected than would be the case if the closed shop were permitted but its operation regulated and limited."

Although the closed shop was objectionable in principle, it was not always unacceptably restrictive in practice.

Union members felt strongly about "free riders" who accepted terms and conditions negotiated by unions but refused to pay for the service. But many people with strong views against union membership had been left in peace.

He added: "Equally, some account should be taken of the fact that many employers place great value on the order and efficiency provided in the conduct of their industrial relations by the closed shop."

Mr Prior said the Conservatives would seek to incorporate a "charter of individual rights" in a code of practice for the negotiation of closed shops which could form a model for those who wished to conclude union membership agreements and would be a protection for individuals at work.

## How are the mighty fallen—according to the critics

By Roger Berthoud

Arnold Toynbee and E. M. Forster emerge as the two most overrated writers of the twentieth century from a poll of 43 intellectual luminaries published in this week's issue of *The Times Literary Supplement*. They are closely followed by André Malraux, Freud and Virginia Woolf.

There was a much wider spread of opinion on the most underrated authors of the century. The only name to emerge twice was that of Barbara Pym, whose six novels published between 1950 and 1961, and now available only in public libraries, were considered under-appreciated by Philip Larkin and Lord David Cecil. Jonathan Cape said last night they might consider a reprint.

H. G. Wells's novels, *The Passionate Friends* and *The Cenci*, were considered underrated by Vladimir Nabokov and Dan Jacobson respectively.

The Bible, which somehow slipped in, was variously considered to be either over or underrated, as was the work of Morryr Peake.

A. J. P. Taylor thought Toynbee's *A Study of History* was neither history nor a study, but a vast miscellany of information; like *Burmese Days* of Melancholy though "not so funny."

Another historian, Richard Cobb, considered Toynbee pretentious which is perhaps rather than R. H. Tawney, whom he found unimaginative and mean. Also anti-Toynbee were Elie Kedourie, of the London School of Economics, and Professor M. I. Finley.

E. M. Forster's reputation was attacked by a formidable trio: Anthony Powell, who considered that Forster's novels exuded bland self-satisfaction; Anthony Burgess, who gave André Gide and Hermann Hesse as Forster's French and German opposite numbers in the overrated stakes; and Angus Wilson.

P. T. Geach, professor of philosophy at Leeds University, was notably severe about Whitehead and Russell's *Principia Mathematica*, which he believed included passages "of which the utmost charity one simply cannot make sense."

Leaving aside the "great charlatans like André Malraux and Teilhard de Chardin", Huxley and Trevor-Roper concentrated on the Bloomsbury group as "the most overrated literary phenomenon of our times", with Lytton Strachey outstandingly so.

Other writers considered overrated were Hannah Arendt (by no less than Sir Isaiah Berlin), J. R. R. Tolkien; George Orwell (by J. K. Galbraith); Jean-Paul Sartre; and Ludwig Wittgenstein, whom Liam Hudson, of Edinburgh University, saw as a man of subtlety and dedication, but now enshrined in superhuman glamour.

## Decision by judges on Silkin role reserved

By Marcel Berlins Legal Correspondent

The Court of Appeal yesterday reserved judgment in the South African mail boycott case. Lord Denning said that it hoped to deliver it next week.

Legal argument yesterday, the fourth day of the hearing, was again concentrated on the main issue, whether an individual is entitled to come to the court for an injunction when the Attorney General has refused his consent for him to do so.

A temporary injunction banning two post office unions from boycotting postal services to South Africa was granted last Saturday on the application of Mr John Gouret, on behalf of the National Association for Freedom, who had been refused consent to bring the action by Mr Samuel Silkin, QC, the Attorney General.

The ban was designed to last only one week, ending tomorrow at midnight, and therefore by the time judgment is given that aspect of the case will have become academic.

Mr Harry Woolf, Mr Silkin's junior counsel, said there could be no justification for continuing the injunction. But he made it clear that if the court's judgment was adverse to the Attorney General's position he would want to challenge it in the House of Lords.

He was concerned that if the injunction was lifted by the court, the Attorney General would have nothing to appeal against. Eventually, after discussion, it was agreed that the court would be asked to make a declaration of the law on the question of the individual's right to come to the court after refusal of consent by the Attorney General.

Speaker's ruling: The Speaker ruled yesterday in the House of Commons that a press release circulated to MPs by Aims for Freedom and Enterprise, which criticized the Attorney General, was not a prima facie breach of privilege (our Parliamentary Correspondent writes).

Mr Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, who had raised the matter, said after the ruling that he had sent the circular also to the Court of Appeal requesting a ruling on whether it constituted contempt of court. Law Report, page 5. Protest week failure, page 5. Leading article, page 13.

## 'The Times'

The *Times* apologizes for the loss of 18,000 copies of yesterday's issue, including most of our supplies for Europe. The loss was caused by continuing unofficial action by the Soviet publishing staff.

## Carter dodgers

Emergency Jan 21

Carter's first foray today was for a writ of habeas corpus for a so-called "draft dodger" who had been arrested by the military authorities with no reasonable discharge.

He said that all those who were abroad, or stayed at home, were now free to evade with "violence" are protected, page 5.

## Mr Powell's warning against civil war over immigrants

By Craig Seton

Civil war in Britain is in prospect because of the occupation of key areas in the heartlands of the kingdom by a growing population of New Commonwealth immigrants and their descendants, Mr Enoch Powell said last night.

In a speech on the scale of his "river of blood" warning in 1968, he spoke of the "impending catastrophe" and the likely effects on those who tried to speak of it when the new Race Relations Act came into force this year.

Mr Powell, addressing Stretford Young Conservatives in Manchester, said that short of wholly new initiatives, the New Commonwealth immigrant and their descendants would continue to grow, absolutely and proportionately, until far into the next century.

Thus, of the two differentiated populations, "one will be advancing and the other retreating, both numerically and territorially."

He said: "The picture is not that of a province or corner of the country occupied by a distinct and growing population, though that would be perilous enough. It is of the occupation, more and more intense, of key areas and, it may be added, of key functions, in the heartlands of the kingdom."

"The process is one of which both populations will be conscious. It is this fact, which, added to all the rest, points to the prospect of eventual conflict upon a scale which cannot adequately be described by any lesser term than civil war."

He continued: "Thus, by our own past actions of commission and omission, we have set in motion the processes which will lead to a result equally catastrophic for both the host and the immigrant—descended populations and equally unwilling by both, who will be the prisoners and victims of their situation."

Mr Powell suggested the resort to physical violence, in the form of firearms or high explosives, was so probable as to be predicted with virtual certainty. Heroic measures would be needed to prevent a catastrophe, measures radically to alter the prospective pattern of the country's population.

He added: "Such as they are, they will never come, or they will come too late, if a prohibition is placed upon rational and temperate free speech, and a premium on self-deception and wilful blindness."

Mr Powell gave a warning that the coloured population of more than two million in England, growing at the rate of 100,000 a year while the remainder diminished, possessed a power, by reason of segregation and differentiation, that could not accrue to a mere random sample of two million people. That power, by the nature of things, could not remain "unexercised."

Because the publicly expressed attitude of the indigenous population towards the coloured population was one of apology and self-accusation, denoted by ever severer laws for their protection, the effect was to endow the growing minority with a privilege, and to communicate to them "the dangerous conviction that the guilty and apologetic behaviour of the majority derives at least in part from fear."

Once that position of strength and privilege, natural and psychological, was created "it is bound to be used as a means to extend that strength and privilege further."

In the narrowly balanced politics of Britain, political support could be secured to the highest bidder in return for further concessions and privileges. It was the business of leaders of distinct and separate populations to see that the power they possessed was used to benefit those for whom they spoke. Leaders who failed to do so, or to do so fast enough, found themselves outflanked.

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LONDON PARIS GLASGOW

## are threats to public schools

Mrs. Gordon

Public schools in South Africa are found teaching white, black and children together will be the authorities have announced threats are facing Catholic the Transvaal operating the policy decided on by the arch in the hope that the movement would turn a blind eye.

## Egyptian search for riot scapegoats

The Egyptian Government's search for scapegoats after last week's riots continued, with the arrest of four student leaders and a prominent Egyptian journalist and a leftist Party worker. But the real casualty of the riots was expected to be a politician, with the most likely candidate Mr Abdul Kassisouni, a deputy Prime Minister, who advocated the food price rises that led to the riots. Page 4

## Abortion Bill passed

A liberal abortion Bill, strongly opposed by the Roman Catholic Church, gained a narrow majority in the Italian Chamber of Deputies yesterday. To become law it still needs the approval of the Senate where the outcome is uncertain. Page 3

## Lukewarm 'yes' vote

If a vote for Britain's membership of the European Community were conducted now, only a tiny majority would be in favour, an EEC survey concludes. Nearly half of those interviewed in Britain think the country would be better off by "going it alone". Page 4

## Government-union pay talks to open

Mr Healey, the Chancellor, and trade union leaders are to meet on Tuesday week to open discussions about what is to happen after the present pay policy expires in July. Mr John Mervin, CBI director-general, said last night that the next phase of the policy was likely to involve smaller rises than those agreed in the present phase. Page 2

## Legal aid: Proceedings have been brought against the Home Office over regulations governing the level of payments

Water Bill: MPs voting for constituency reasons rather than a party cause could defeat the water charges Bill. Page 2

## Tories consulted: Top civil servants are to discuss with the Conservative Party their association's proposed affiliation to the TUC

Bonn: Herr Schmidt, a chastened West German Chancellor, learns the links of his authority. Page 3

## Brussels: The European Commission reacts sharply to British subsidy for pig farmers

Brussels: The European Commission reacts sharply to British subsidy for pig farmers. Page 3

## Features, pages 7-12

George Hutchinson gives a warning to the Tory Jeremiahs; Frank Eccleston on oysters for all; Geoffrey Green talks to Alec Stock; Ned Chaillet on President Carter's inaugural spectacular. Leader page, 13

Letters: On rejecting the monetarist remedy, from Mr Reginald Maudling, MP; and on the union of the Churches, from Mr Paul Tyler and the Rev Frank Hargreaves. Leading article: The Attorney General. Arts, page 9

John Higgins talks to Maximilian Schell, in an exclusive interview, about his directing debut at the National Theatre; Stanley Sadie reviews Handel's *Giulio Cesare*. Obituary, page 14

Professor Gladys Torguet

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## Sport, pages 15, 16

Boxing: Bugart stripped of European title; Athletics: Top half-mile runner; Football: First practice for Brazilian Grand Prix; Rugby Union: County championship prospects; Football: Season at the end of the year; Four programmes and prospects. Business News, pages 17-21

Stock markets: Equities and gilts discounted the M.L.R. cut and the FT Index closed 2.2 off at 384.7, a gain of 20.8 over the week.

Personal investment and finance: John Drummond discusses a private member's Bill which calls for the registration of insurance brokers; Adrienne Leeson starts a portfolio for investors looking for the maximum return on their capital; Francis Kinsman asks—is it love that makes the multi-nationals go round?









Model of the Irish State Coach, made from 20,000 Lego bricks, at the British Toy and Hobby which opened at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham yesterday.

## ti-Lords' ng Labour's plan

A Clark Correspondent peers, having had things to discuss the of putting forward recommendations for the House of Lords, ded that the "anti-Lords" in the Labour strong that it is not them to submit any

ar that the party's executive, on the dation of the home mities, chaired by vood Benn, Secretary r Energy, will decide position of the Lords official party policy r general election.

ve little doubt that at party conference, tion will get the two rty necessary for it ded in the manifesto.

Labour peers' discus appears to have e support for Mr w that the revising of the Lords could il be undertaken by e chosen from House s members.

r the party will be coral disadvantage, ey know that Mrs and her advisers in led by Lord Carrin- gton, a plan for fucing the power of ary peers and intro- elected element, id have popular

a self-deception, but e Labour men and the upper House believe that "every- lord".

rales, led by Lord base their manifesto a those worked out by group set up by Richard Crossman, red in 1968, provid- framework for the (No 2) Bill, which ally defeated by a Conservative and members in the

and record civil servants consult Conservative ers over affiliation to the TUC

emmesy Division Associa- represents 10,000 us in the highest hitherto, is not levers with Conservative assess Shadow- tion to its proposed uth the TUC. ons, will also be the Labour and des- ciation's executive icided last month affiliation. It is il Service staff asso- the TUC, should senior Con- pose such a move- ne might have to its position. The represents officials most closely with id a future Conserv- ment might sus- traditional poli- of the Civil been impaired by jon. Flanagan, chairman

n fire named ons were being day into the cause / night's fire in anchester, in which died. had been working to 10 pm shift at much Bureau, manu- cards for com-urray House, a Vic- ing, which was not a fire risk. The escape were con- factory. il from Greater Man- Mrs Lena Baird, Hayfield Road, Mrs aged 25, of Sey- Crumpled; Mrs urst, aged 27, of Marple, Stockport; vities, aged 25, of Astley; Mrs Janet 24, of Milton Close, Marple; Mrs Lily 7, of Beacraft Road, Hawthorn; and Mrs aged 28, of Oakley-upon-Mersey.

## Plan for four million to use Stansted airport

By Robert Parker

A recommendation that Stansted airport, Essex, should handle four million passengers a year, instead of the present 250,000, was made by the South-East Economic Planning Council yesterday.

In a letter to Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, Lord Porchester, chairman of the council, said he thought that would be the best way of coping with the growth in the number of airline passengers in the South-east. It could be done without much expansion of facilities at Stansted.

The council did not rule out massive expansion there, but told Mr Dell that it still believed a new airport at Mipin was the best way ultimately of relieving pressure on the London airports.

The council's views are based on an examination of two con- sultative documents on airport policy in Britain that have been circulated.

Princess Anne fined £40 for speeding

Princess Anne was fined £40 by magistrates at Abingdon, Oxfordshire, yesterday for speeding on the M1 motorway before Christmas. The court was told that she was timed at just over 96 mph.

Princess Anne, who was charged in the name of Mrs Mark Phillips, did not appear in court and pleaded guilty through a local solicitor. Her licence was not suspended.

Mr Arthur Willis, for the defence, said Princess Anne did not dispute the facts. He added: "At the time of the offence the motorway was as clear as you could ever expect it to be on this stretch. Her Royal Highness wished to ex- press her regrets for this matter having occurred and apolo- gises to the court."

The court was told that Princess Anne's licence had no previous endorsements. Mr Willis asked for 14 days to pay, which was granted. The offence carries a maximum fine of £100.

BBC's training orchestra to be disbanded this year

By Our Arts Reporter

There is to be no reprieve for the Academy of the BBC. Formerly known as the Training Orchestra, it will be disbanded by next September because the BBC is not prepared to carry the full burden of training players for all British orchestras from licence income.

## Demand for Labour to dismantle Treasury

By Robert Parker

On Stansted, the council stated: "The present situation, with only about a quarter of a million passengers per year using this airport, represents a massive underuse of its resources." There could be no objection to developing the airport to handle four million passengers on noise or land use grounds, it was argued.

In addition, such expansion would provide welcome employment opportunities for people in the Bishop's Cleeve and Harlow areas and possibly in north-east London.

Lord Porchester's letter added: "The council recognizes that the suggestions it has made in relation to Stansted might imply a commitment to the fuller and unlimited expansion of that airport. The council does not believe that this conclusion need necessarily follow." It said that further expansion should not take place without review and public inquiry.

Film censors may offer 'PG' tips to parents

By Kenneth Gosling

New ways of classifying films, including the possible replacement by censors of the "A" certificate with one designated "PG" (parental guidance), were discussed in London yesterday.

It was also suggested, at the meeting of the recently reconstituted Cinema Consultative Committee, that an element of certification according to age of intended audience might be introduced. An advisory sub-committee will examine whether it would be sensible to categorize films on a four-point scale: "U" (as now), "PG", "16", and "18", the last two indicating the minimum ages at which people would be admitted to the cinema.

The board's view was that the "U" and "X" categories are perfectly clear, but that there was some lack of clarity in the public mind about the meaning of the "A" certificate, which allows any child to see the film

'Chorus Line' to reopen with British actress

By Kenneth Gosling

The American musical, *A Chorus Line*, will reopen next Friday, four days later than planned, with a British cast. The management announced yesterday that Petra Siniawski, from Liverpool, would be ready to take the leading role on that day.

Equity, the actors' union, had objected to Donna McKechie, an American, playing the part after the dismissal of Elizabeth Smith. Siniawski was originally Miss Seale's understudy. The American cast, which has performed for the past six months, gives its last show tonight. There will be no other performance until Miss Siniawski is ready. Mr Michael White, the producer, said it would be necessary to cram three weeks' work into four or five days.

## Delay in plans to educate the handicapped

By Our Education Correspondent

Plans to educate handicapped children in ordinary schools will be worked out gradually over several years, Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science said in Derbyshire yesterday.

Section 10 of the Education Act 1976, would not be implemented until after the findings of the Warnock committee into the education of handicapped children had been published. That is not expected for at least another year.

The section requires handicapped children to be educated in ordinary schools wherever possible. Mrs Williams said any large-scale arrangements to achieve that would need careful planning.

There were practical difficulties of adapting buildings and providing staff and specialist equipment on a wider scale.

West Europe

## New mood of Mr Callaghan's guest from Germany

From Dan van der Vat

Bonn, Jan 21

Mr Callaghan's weekend guest at Chequers, Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, has discovered the limits of his authority since the two leaders last met there in October.

At that time, Herr Schmidt had just been returned to office with a narrow but workable majority. That the ruling coalition of Social Democrats (SPD) and Free Democrats (FDP) won the election at all is due in the first instance to his own personality.

His party, the SPD, therefore owes him more than he owes it. But the barely successful "presidential" campaign distracted attention from the internal disputes, declining morale and paralysis in the SPD which it now seems only a complete defeat can begin to resolve.

Herr Willy Brandt, the party chairman, who resigned as Chancellor in favour of Herr Schmidt in 1974, seems to have gone into orbit. As newly-elected chairman of the Socialist International, he spends much of his time encouraging fellow socialists in Portugal and Spain and rebuking communist governments for badgering dissidents.

Although he remains a useful shield for Herr Schmidt against the SPD left, he is not the man to revitalize the SPD and impose upon it the flexibility it needs to stay ahead even of a badly divided opposition, and thus keep in office as Chancellor the man who remains the best one for the job.

## Chastened Chancellor learns the limits of his authority

that Herr Brandt would soon have to be recalled to power as Chancellor.

The reasoning was that Herr Schmidt had suffered so much damage to his prestige over the pensions fiasco that he would be forced to give up. Since there was no obvious successor to him Herr Brandt would have to be recalled as a "Pope John" figure, it was suggested.

When Herr Brandt began to decide to resign, Herr Schmidt was the obvious and only heir. The fact that there is no crown prince now is one of the most serious weaknesses of the SPD.

Reliable sources say that Herr Schmidt was genuinely astonished by the public reaction to the government proposal to renege on an election promise to raise pensions by 10 per cent in July because of the cash crisis in the pension system. Observers were equally astonished that such a skilled politician could make such an elementary howler. Had Herr Schmidt lost his touch?

After a long period of uncertainty, during which he took a badly needed holiday, the Chancellor has begun to fight back. His speech in the Bundestag today, for example, during the debate on his policy statement, contained the old wit and razor-sharp rhetoric so absent in recent weeks.

Herr Schmidt's impatience with people who think more slowly than himself or raise objections which strike him as petty has made way for a new readiness to listen. Instead of laying down the law at this week's SPD parliamentary party meeting, deputies were surprised and pleased to see him anxious to conciliate.

The Chancellor's famous index finger, which he was

limited to Britain. In its state- ment it strongly urges that efforts be made to seek a solution acceptable to the Community as a whole.

The Commission's irritation has been heightened by the speed at which Mr Silkin has moved to announce the subsidies. According to well-informed sources in Brussels, the Commission was given virtually no notice of the decision and consulted hardly at all.

The suddenness of the British decision has taken many officials here by surprise. In the past the British Government has usually gone out of its way to consult the Commission about any unpopular (in the eyes of Brussels) moves it may be considering. This was certainly the case with previous British Ministers of Agriculture like Mr Joseph Godber and Mr Fred Peart.

Mr Silkin, who has already made an impression in Brussels as a tough negotiator, clearly has a different approach and has already been described as a British version of M Jacques Chirac.

Ministers of Nine will review détente

By David Spanier

Diplomatic Correspondent

A review of détente since the 1975 Helsinki agreement on security, trade, human rights and the free flow of ideas between East and West will be the agenda when the EEC Council of Ministers meets in London at the end of the month.

The meeting of the foreign ministers of the Nine will be chaired by Mr Crosland, the Foreign Secretary.

Preparations are already well advanced for a joint EEC approach at the joint East-West review of the Helsinki pact due to be held in Belgrade at mid-year.

Officials say that a common position has already been reached on about three-quarters

## Madrid grants more rights to Basque region

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, Jan 21

Señor Adolfo Suárez, the Spanish Prime Minister, today appointed two new provincial governors in the Basque country to replace the governors of Gasteiz and Vitoria who resigned over the Government's decision to allow the free display of the Basque flag.

They were named as Señor José María Belloch Puig and Señor Manuel María Uriarte y Zubizarra.

In the town of Vergara, 36 Basque mayors met yesterday to hear a report from a committee of mayors which had met the Interior Minister in Madrid earlier in the week to discuss demands for full amnesty, use of the Basque flag, acceptance of Basque as an official language and home-rule for the region.

In Vitoria, the capital of the province of Alava, Basque patriots were informed today that a proposal for bilingual instruction—in Basque and Spanish—has been approved by the Ministry of Education for certain primary schools in the area.

EEC reacts sharply to British pig subsidy

From David Cross

Brussels, Jan 21

The European Commission has reacted quickly and sharply to yesterday's unilateral decision by the British Government to help pig farmers.

A statement published in Brussels today said the commission firmly believed that unilateral measures were not the right solution. Moreover, they would infringe EEC rules designed to ensure equal and fair treatment for all Community producers.

The point at issue between Brussels and London is yesterday's House of Commons announcement by Mr John Silkin, the Minister of Agriculture, that the Government had decided to pay subsidies worth about £3.50 a pig from the end of this month. The payments are designed to preserve Britain's long-term supplies of pork and bacon by slowing down the present rapid slaughtering.

Although the Commission recognizes the difficulties of British pig producers, it argues that the problem are not

Press dispute in Paris again hits newspapers

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Jan 21

Paris newspapers failed to appear for the second time this week today after yet another strike in connexion with the unresolved two-year dispute between management and print-workers at *Le Parisien Libéré*. Later several thousand trade unionists marched through the city.

The stoppage and protests, called by the Communist-led CGT union, which has a virtual closed shop in Paris news- paper plants, were over the "appearance" in court of eight pickets who tried to prevent distribution of *Le Parisien Libéré* during Wednesday's strike.

Jewel robbers kill Briton

Portuguese pay more for petrol

Lisbon, Jan 21—Mr Derek Anthony Williams, aged 39, a Briton working at Lisbon dock- yard, died this morning after being shot while trying to prevent thieves from robbing a jeweller's shop, hospital officials said.

He saw the shop being robbed when walking home at the seaside resort of Caparica, on Lisbon's outskirts.

## Narrow majority for Italian abortion Bill

From Peter Nichols

Rome, Jan 21

The Chamber of Deputies tonight approved by a narrow majority a Bill permitting abortion. If it is passed by the Senate as well, it will introduce abortion for the first time to the Italian statute book.

The voting was 310 in favour to 296 against with one abstention. The governing Christian Democrats as well as the extreme right opposed the Bill.

The Vatican newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano* tonight condemned the measure as "practically adopting the slogan of free abortion at the expense of the state". The hierarchy, including the Pope himself, have maintained a strong campaign against the passage of the Bill. The majority in its favour in the Senate is narrower than that in the Chamber.

The Bill is remarkably liberal even if it does not fulfill the wishes of the Radicals and others who were pressing for abortion on demand.

It would allow a woman to decide to terminate her pregnancy within the first 90 days if there should be serious danger to her physical or mental health, or for economic, social or family reasons.

A termination would also be permitted at this stage in cases of rape and incest, or if there should be dangers of a malformed child. After 90 days an abortion could be performed only if there was a danger to the woman's life or grave danger to her health.

Doctors and medical staff would be able to object on grounds of conscience to performing or assisting at abortions.

Girls of 16 and 17 are treated in the same way as adults. In cases involving girls under 16, the doctor would have to refer to the responsible parent or guardian.

The Bill makes the local authorities responsible for seeing that abortion is not used as a means of birth control. The Bill includes penalties for abortions carried out without the consent of the woman or the local health authority, from two months to four years in prison.

Lisbon hint to Europe on full membership

From Our Own Correspondent

Lisbon, Jan 21

The Portuguese Government has reacted swiftly to reports of some doubts among the Nine over its suitability for eventual full membership of the European Community.

Dr José Medeiros Ferreira, the Foreign Minister, today indicated that his country does not want to be "a kind of poor relation of the EEC".

In an interview with O Dia, the conservative Lisbon daily, he said that the idea, attributed to the Belgians, that Portugal might be accorded an intermediary status between associated and full membership was not acceptable.

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Normally these days a very expensive luxury I can offer you value in genuine British-made sheepskin coats that is second to none. Classically styled in a deep-plee white wool with brown skin exterior we have insisted that our manufacturers carry on where nature left off; nothing is left to chance. The pockets are deep and warmly lined, the leather buttons riveted on, the buttonholes double-layered, double stitched and uncuttable. The seams are overstitched and the generous stand-up collar and shaped lapels are edged.

I can offer these coats in two lengths—fingertip (33" approx.) and three-quarter-length (about 36"), and in either men's or women's buttoning. Note my prices —

Fingertip length Chest or bust sizes Three-quarter length

£45.00 34" & 36" £49.50

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At the prices I quote you might well ask, are they perfect? The truth is that there never was a perfect sheep in the same way as you will never find the perfect human being, but our coats are made from selected skins and are the equal of many being sold at twice the price! The answer to our low prices goes back to last year's scorching summer; nobody in their right senses was interested in sheepskins, so I put down an order there and then at most advantageous terms. Call it you can at any one of our six shops, or send your particular requirement to me personally, for my special attention and post free delivery. David Edwards.

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## WEST EUROPE

## British are lukewarm towards Community

From Our Own Correspondent  
Brussels, Jan 21

A return of the British referendum on EEC membership would now produce a tiny majority in favour of membership compared with the massive "yes" vote of June, 1975.

This is one of the tentative conclusions which can be drawn from the sixth of the European Commission's half-yearly opinion surveys published in Brussels today. The poll is based on interviews with more than 9,000 people in various parts of the Community last November.

Asked how they would vote in a referendum tomorrow, 45 per cent of those interviewed in Britain replied that they would be in favour of membership and 44 per cent against. This compares with the 67.2 per cent "yes" and the 32.8 "no" votes in the referendum 18 months ago.

According to the poll, only the Danes would vote against membership with 52 per cent voting "no" and 33 per cent voting "yes".

In the Community as a whole 65 per cent of those interviewed would support EEC membership for their own country, compared with 18 per cent against.

Not surprisingly, referendums in the six founder members would produce massive major-

ities in favour of membership with "yes" votes ranging between 77 per cent (in The Netherlands) and 68 per cent (France) and "no" votes between 12 per cent (France) and 7 per cent (Belgium).

Other findings in the survey disclose that the general public is still wavering in its attitude as to whether the European Community is a good or bad thing. Some 55 per cent of those interviewed felt it fell in the first category and 13 per cent in the second, while 32 per cent were unsure or did not reply. On this basis, the Danes and to a lesser extent, the French were the most disillusioned.

In spite of this, 41 per cent of those interviewed felt that things would be worse if their country were not a member of the Community. Britain and Denmark, where 48 and 41 per cent of those interviewed felt they would be better off outside the Community, were the only countries where more people felt that a "go-it-alone" approach might be better.

The idea of direct elections to the European Parliament appears to have become popular now that member Governments have agreed to introduce the system next year. In all countries, including Britain and Denmark, the majority of those interviewed were in favour.

## Retiring American envoy has kind words for Italy

From Our Own Correspondent  
Rome, Jan 21

Mr John Volpe, the retiring American ambassador, said today that he thought the Italians would obtain the credits they had asked for from the International Monetary Fund in the course of next month.

This was, he said, his own guess. He thought that the lira was standing up quite well. A few things had still to be done to fulfil the IMF conditions, but he appeared to be confident that the Government would meet these requirements. The Italians might not, he suggested, actually have to draw on the money but they needed the credits to meet speculation and to give confidence to others.

He praised the work of the Government. People had said it was weak because it was a minority administration depending on abstentions for its survival in Parliament. But it had accomplished something beyond economics. "They shape up as a pretty doggone good team", the ambassador said.

He also praised the efforts made by the governing Chris-

tian Democratic Party to renew its ranks: some 40 per cent of its members in the two houses of Parliament were new faces.

On the future of Italian politics, the ambassador said that after four years as head of the Rome embassy, he had faith in the Italian people. He felt this particularly when he was outside the big cities. In the smaller centres, family life was still strong and so was religious life.

Observers were apt to judge the country too much by what they saw and heard in Rome. There was still a great will to work. Democratic principles would, in his opinion, prevail.

Asked whether he thought the Communists would eventually enter the Government, Mr Volpe replied that he did not regard such a development as inevitable. At the time of the general election in June, he had thought it was inevitable and there had been a tendency to throw in the sponge.

Mr Volpe, who has sometimes been criticized for his allegedly conservative views, leaves on Monday for the United States. He said that he would be going to Washington for consultations

## OVERSEAS



Mr Narayan: Opposition sees him as a Mahatma Gandhi.

## Mr Narayan backs opposition

Delhi, Jan 21.—The ailing pacifist, Mr Jayaprakash Narayan, who was the leading spirit of political dissidence before Mrs Gandhi, the Prime Minister, declared a state of emergency, has agreed to throw his support behind the opposition campaign in the general elections.

Mr Narayan, age 74, will fly here tomorrow to meet leaders of the four main non-communist opposition parties which yesterday united as the Janata (People's) Party.

Opposition sources here said that Mr Narayan would be to Janata what Mahatma Gandhi was to the Congress Party.

Known popularly as "J.P.", Mr Narayan has taken little part in active politics for health reasons since his release in 1975 from detention under the state of emergency declared in June of the same year.

Following last night's announcement that press censorship was being lifted, the Government today closed its censorship office and withdrew law suits filed against newspapers accused of violating press restrictions during the 19 months of emergency rule.—Reuters and AP.

## Briton reprieved in Algeria

Algiers, Jan 21.—Harry Calleia, a Briton awaiting execution in Algeria for drug trafficking, has been reprieved under a clemency order together with Arthur Pouw, a Dutchman condemned to die after a separate trial. It was not known what jail term they now face.

Mr Calleia, of London, was convicted in May, 1975, of leading a hashish-smuggling operation. Another 67 foreigners were jailed.—Reuters.

## Arrests in Cairo as the Egyptian search for scapegoats in rioting continues

From Robert Fisk  
Cairo, Jan 21

During the Egyptian Government's search for scapegoats after this week's riots, the police in Cairo announced today, with an astonishing lack of reticence, that they had arrested four student leaders, four prominent Egyptian journalists and a leftist Party worker for allegedly instigating the two days of street violence which took more than 60 lives.

Not only did the security authorities publicize the detentions but Cairo newspapers named the prisoners, stating their professional posts and the nature of their supposed crime. Among others interrogated by the police was a close friend of the leader of Egypt's officially recognized leftist Party and the local leftist leader in the Saida Zaimab district of Cairo.

The public prosecutor in Cairo ordered the questioning of members of the Communist Labour Party which, according to the Government, has links with both the extremist Palestinian Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the South Yemen National Front.

Some Government officials here make little secret of the fact that they do not take the arrests seriously. "They are for the public to see", one of them said today. "They will be released eventually. The Government does not want trials."

The real casualty in the immediate period following the riots is expected to be a politician and the most likely candidate at present is Mr Abdul

Kaisouni, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economy. It was he who insisted on the necessity of the food price increases that led to this week's battles in Cairo, Alexandria, Suez, Aswan and other cities.

Mr Kaisouni offered his resignation to the Prime Minister two days ago but at that time, when the Government wanted to show its self-confidence in the face of civil unrest, it was refused.

The Cairo papers carried news of the arrests on their front pages. According to the semi-official Al-Ahram, the detainees included Mr Yehia Mabrouk, an alleged member of the Workers Communist Party and a medical student; Mr Talaat Ruheim, an arts student and son of a Nasser era politician; Mr Taymour el Halawany, an engineering student, and Mr Muhammad Zahran, an arts student.

The journalists arrested were, according to Al-Ahram, members of the leftist Party who were seen "instigating rioters". One of them, Mr Muhammad Salmany, is an editor at Al-Ahram itself. The others were Mr Hussein Rashed, an editor at Al-Akbar, and Mr Philip Gallab and Mr Youssef Sabry, who work for Ros El Youssef.

There were further arrests in the town of Menia, south of Cairo, although the prisoners there have not been named. The Government says that it also found printing presses and incendiary devices in various houses in Cairo. The fact that

the initial demonstrations continued until 3 am on Wednesday, according to the authorities, "was obviously intended to fatigue the police so that they would not be able to carry out their duties effectively the following morning".

How far the Egyptian Government will press this conspiracy theory of violence is an open question. There certainly was some organization behind the riots, at least on Wednesday when men could be seen directing the crowds and telling them which way to march, but being "seen" near rioters or possessing anti-government leaflets, are hardly strong enough charges on which to base a claim that communists wanted to burn Cairo to the ground.

The secret police also arrested an American journalist on Wednesday when he was seen in the street with a tape recorder. He was taken to the police headquarters where the authorities were astounded to hear on his tape the sound of shells exploding and heavy machine gun fire. He was released when he explained that the tape had been made during the fighting in Beirut.

On the other hand it should, perhaps, be remembered that in no other Arab capital could foreign journalists have moved so easily or reported with such freedom as they were able to do in Cairo during the worst of the riots this week.

At one point an officer in the riot police allowed me to stand next to his men during a street battle because, he said, it was "important that foreign people

know everything that happens in Egypt". This might have been an exceptional attitude but the Government Press Centre in Cairo even went to the length yesterday of issuing all foreign correspondents with special permits allowing them to move round the city during the curfew if they wished to report any night time violence.

It was a remarkable example of President Sadat's open government in action. Moshe Brilliant writes from Tel Aviv: Mr Peres, the Israeli Defence Minister, said today that Egypt transferred armoured divisions and commando forces from the Sinai front to cope with rioters in the mainland. He said the forces were sent to Aswan, Alexandria, Cairo and Suez.

Addressing a luncheon club here, the Minister referred to the scores killed and hundreds injured in Egyptian cities and drew comparisons with the situation in the Israel-occupied Arab areas. "In Judea and Samaria there have also been riots but not a single person was killed", he said with patent exaggeration. There have indeed been scattered cases of Arab rioters killed by Israeli forces.

Referring wryly to President Sadat's "greatness and wisdom", Mr Peres said the Egyptian Government departed from its policy against involving the army in internal and economic matters.

He described the Government handling of the riots as dichotomous, "a tough hand against the perpetrators and a soft line regarding its causes".

## 'People's Daily' pledge to liven up its dull pages

Peking, Jan 21.—The People's Daily, the Communist Party newspaper, today turned over its front page to readers' letters and complaints and promised to liven up its dull image.

Nine letters were published, including one criticising the newspaper's standards of accuracy and another pleading for shorter, simpler articles to replace the old fare of tortuous ideological treatises.

An editor's note said the readership was fed up with the way the People's Daily had developed under the purged "gang of four" radicals.

One of the four, Yao Wenyuan, the party's propaganda chief, exercised control over the media, and the note blamed the radicals for what it called reactionary, smelly, lengthy and monotonous articles.

One letter called for more readable stories and particularly praised a recent report on how

Chairman Hua Guofeng had waived to his daughter's school to discuss her education.

Another said there should be more critiques by workers, peasants and soldiers. Other letters asked for more short items—the paper has often devoted the bulk of its six pages to mammoth, repetitive articles reinforcing political campaigns.

The most pungent correspondence came from workers in the southern province of Fukien complaining that the People's Daily recently reported production at their factory was lagging.

In fact, it said, the factory met its production target.

The editor's note said since the purging of the "gang of four" last October there had been small improvement in the newspaper. Observers thought the move could be part of a general overhaul of the party's propaganda machinery.—Reuters.

## Tanganyika and Zanzibar parties merge

From Our Correspondent  
Nairobi, Jan 21

President Nyerere was today unanimously elected chairman of Tanzania's new political party, Chama cha Mapinduzi (revolutionary party). It is being formed by a merger of the present ruling parties of mainland Tanzania and the island of Zanzibar.

Mr Aboud Jumbe, president of the Afro-Shirazi Party, in Zanzibar, was elected vice-chairman by the 3,000 delegates attending a joint conference in Dar es Salaam of the ASP and the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU).

The new party is to come into being on February 5. In a speech, President Nyerere said the merger did not mean the integration of the Governments of Zanzibar and the mainland. The new party, however, would be "sure over both Governments".

## Opposition chiefs barred from Pakistan poll

From Our Correspondent  
Karachi, Jan 21

The nomination papers for the National Assembly elections lodged from jail by two prominent leaders of the opposition Pakistan National Alliance were rejected by returning officers.

Mr Mohammad Hanif Ramay, a former Chief Minister of Punjab and chairman of the ruling Pakistan People's Party before joining the opposition, and Mr Chaudhri Zahur Ehsan, a former MP, are serving jail sentences for "objectionable" political speeches.

The nomination paper of Mr Sher Baz Mazari, president of the National Democratic Party, a constituent of the nine-party opposition front, was rejected in Peshawar today.

The unopposed reelection of Mr Bhutto, the Prime Minister, in his home constituency of Lyallpur in the Sind, was officially announced today.

## Mr Richard remains optimistic Rhodesia

Continued from page 1

various aspects of proposals which he obviously does not like.

It is understood that Mr Richard is not expecting Smith to accept the proposals as such, but merely that they should be a basis for further negotiations. He has said that it is the fact that there are amendments to the proposals which he is pleased about.

Mr Smith, who was expected to meet Mr David S. Meyer van der Bilt, the Minister of the South African Republic, in the Cal Mr George Smith, a national adviser, is expected to hold a Cabinet meeting next two days at the Government's farms to discuss the proposals with the Rhodesians.

The chances of the being accepted even for further negotiations appear, on the surface, to be bright, although it is anxious that he should be held responsible for the down of the General.

In recent weeks, Mr Smith has stated that a B sense in the transition would be to Rhodesians. The Rhodesian Government, however, has stated that it will not accept the proposals.

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FRANCE & SWITZERLAND (BEST BUY PRICES)							
B2951	Gatwick	Les Arcs	Miravidi Apts. (4 sharing)		30 Jan.	7	£
B2952	Gatwick	Les Arcs	Pierre Blanche		30 Jan.	14	£
B2951	Gatwick	Les Arcs	Du Golf		6 Feb.	7	£
B2951	Gatwick	Les Arcs	Miravidi Apts. (4 sharing)		27 Feb.	7	£
B2951	Gatwick	Les Arcs	De la Cascade		6 Mar.	7	£
B2951	Gatwick	Verbier	Sun Valley Apts. (6 sharing)		30 Jan.	7	£
B2952	Gatwick	Verbier	De Verbier		30 Jan.	14	£
B2952	Gatwick	Verbier	Chalet Sun Valley		20 Feb.	14	£
B2932	Luton	Grindelwald	Derby		27 Feb.	7	£
B2932	Luton	Wengen	Chalet Erika		13 Mar.	7	£
AUSTRIA							
B2701	Gatwick	Kitzbühel	Eckingerhof		30 Jan.	7	£
B2702	Manchester	Zell Am Ziller	Tirolerhof		30 Jan.	7	£
B2702	Manchester	Lermoos	Grubigstein		6 Feb.	7	£
B2905	Gatwick	Söll	Modlinger		6 Feb.	14	£
B2932	Luton	Gargellen	Gargellenhof		6 Mar.	7	£
SPAIN							
B2967	Luton	Cerler	Monte Alba		6 Feb.	7	£
B2967	Luton	Panticosa	Escalar		6 Feb.	7	£
B2967	Luton	Formigal	Formigal		13 Feb.	7	£
B2968	Luton	Cerler	Monte Alba		27 Feb.	14	£
ITALY							
B2924	Gatwick	Macugnaga	Anza		30 Jan.	7	£
B2703	Luton	Corvara	Miramonti		30 Jan.	14	£
B2924	Gatwick	Macugnaga	Lagger		6 Feb.	7	£

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# Threat of closure to Catholic schools in Cape which mix races

Nicholas Ashford  
own, Jan 21

Roman Catholic Church seemed to be heading for confrontation with the government over its decision to close the doors of Catholic schools to children of all races.

Mr. C. Botha, the Minister of Education, has issued a statement saying the church's refusal to accept a policy of racial integration is a violation of the Constitution, while the administration of both the Cape and the Transvaal have given notice that they may take action against schools which have gone to the other extreme.

A spokesman for the African Catholic Bishops Conference in Pretoria made it plain that the church is not prepared to go ahead with its policy of racial integration in schools.

In a statement issued today, the Mother-Vicar of the Dominicans in Cape Town said: "In accordance with the decision of the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference, at its plenary meeting in February, 1976, the Dominican Sisters' private schools have become open schools. They are accepting children without reference to so-called race classification."

In the Transvaal province, the Administrator, Mr. Sybrand van Niekerk, said his education department was investigating which schools had been integrated. Where it was established that non-whites were being admitted, the school would be informed in writing that it was contravening the law. "Unless they comply with the law their registration will have to be withdrawn," he said.

In Pretoria an unrepentant Catholic spokesman described the move to integrate schools as a way of "giving witness to the Gospel". The church had embarked on this policy "without apprehension or fear but with hope and faith. We still have faith."

The Catholic church controls 171 white primary and secondary schools attended by an estimated 31,000 European children. It also maintains separate primary and secondary schools for 43,000 black and 10,000 Coloured pupils.



Mr. M. C. Botha: His separate schooling policy 'violated'.

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## In brief

### New York banks take tough line

New York, Jan 21.—In the latest development in the saga of New York's financial crisis, the banks have proposed in a memorandum to Mr. Hugh Carey, the state Governor, a series of tough proposals in exchange for their continuing help.

One of their main demands is that President Carter should undertake to extend the system of federal loans for five years after it expires next year. Another is that the city's financial affairs should be supervised by a three-man commission to ensure that the budget is balanced.

### Dual murder alleged

Hackensack, New Jersey, Jan 21.—Robert Reldan, aged 36, who was once described as a "model graduate" of a programme for training sex offenders, has been indicted for the murders of Mrs Susan Heynes, wife of a British Leyland official, and Miss Susan Reeve, a student, both of whom disappeared in October, 1975, from their homes in New Jersey. Mr Reldan is at present serving a prison term for burglary.

### Labour camp strikes

Moscow, Jan 21.—Prisoners in scores of Soviet labour camps have staged hunger strikes and work stoppages as part of a resistance campaign against the camp authorities, according to Mr Kronid Lyubarsky, aged 42, an astrophysicist who was freed four days ago.

### Blinkered nation

Berlin, Jan 21.—Every second East German wears glasses and last year three million people—one in six of the country's population—sought help for poor eyesight, the newspaper *Neues Deutschland* reported.

### London site for talks

Ankara, Jan 21.—Greece and Turkey will resume talks over dividing the continental shelf under the Aegean sea in London on January 31, a diplomatic source disclosed today.

### Rail crash toll rises

Sydney, Jan 21.—The death toll in the Sydney train crash rose to 82 today with the death of two men in hospital.

## Law Report January 21 1977

### Gouriet v Union of Post Office Workers and others

Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Lawton and Lord Justice Ormrod.

The Court of Appeal reversed judgment on the appeal by Mr John Gouriet against the Union of Post Office Workers and others. The court held that the union's refusal to grant him an interim injunction to restrain the Union of Post Office Workers from soliciting or endeavouring to procure any person to refuse to deliver or carry any postal packet in pursuance of a transmission between England and Wales and the Republic of South Africa was not unlawful.

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his duty. They did not support the assertion that the Attorney had an absolute discretion on whether proceedings should be initiated. Lord Justice Lawton said that in his experience in criminal cases, once the Attorney General, or someone authorized to represent him, appeared before the court with a nolle prosequi, the court had at once to stop the proceedings, although it did not follow that the accused was acquitted.

Lord Justice Ormrod said that in the nineteenth century cases were plain authority that the court retained power to inquire into proceedings brought by the Attorney, both in civil and criminal matters, and supported his submission that the Attorney's right was subject to checks and balances. Though the court might not be able to inquire into the circumstances of the cases, it did show that if the Attorney was correct in the present case in saying that it was in his interest, in the exercise of his discretion, to choose the most appropriate time to bring proceedings, and if as a result of his delay damage was done, the court would not be able to say "Why did you not come earlier before the trouble happened, when you must have known that in applications for an injunction the court has to consider the question of delay."

Lord Justice Lawton said: "Do you go so far as to say that once a member of the public can show he has a prima facie case that the criminal law is being broken the Attorney has really no discretion? If so, the Government would be worried about the situation in some countries and a trade union instructs its members to go over the border to do something which is not to the account of the delicacy of the situation of which nobody but he has knowledge. If he had to come to the court it might do great harm."

Counsel said it depended on whether the court was satisfied on the facts of the particular case that the Attorney had refused his consent to the application. The court would have to decide whether the Attorney's discretion to refuse was properly exercised, having regard to the particular interests of the public.

Lord Justice Ormrod said that the court should not be asked to interfere with the Attorney's discretion unless it was shown that he had acted unreasonably. The court would not be asked to interfere with the Attorney's discretion unless it was shown that he had acted unreasonably.

Lord Justice Lawton said: "But there is usually a political motive in the Attorney's refusal to grant an injunction. It is usually a political motive in the Attorney's refusal to grant an injunction. It is usually a political motive in the Attorney's refusal to grant an injunction."

The court held that the union's refusal to grant him an interim injunction to restrain the Union of Post Office Workers from soliciting or endeavouring to procure any person to refuse to deliver or carry any postal packet in pursuance of a transmission between England and Wales and the Republic of South Africa was not unlawful.

### Whether the courts have any control over the Attorney

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## No power to order interim payment when landlord seeks forfeiture

### Moore and Another v Assignment Court Ltd

Before Lord Justice Megaw, Lord Justice Geoffrey Lane and Sir John Pennycuik.

There is no jurisdiction in the court to order, on a summons by a landlord to forfeit a lease, an interim payment representing compensation under one head or another for the use by the tenant of the land during the period between the forfeiture and the determination of the action.

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### PARLIAMENT, January 21, 1977

#### Minister reassures Labour MPs on worker representation

House of Commons. Mr Bruce George (Walsall, South, Labour) asked the Minister of the National Enterprise Board guidelines, said the NEB, as one of the major elements in the Government's policy for the future of employment, would have before it a wide range of tasks, financial, economic, social and even political.

He had sympathy with the criticism that the NEB, as originally conceived, had been too narrow and, some would say, emasculated. The guidelines in parts were far too tight and in other parts far too loose.

The final guidelines differed slightly from the draft guidelines published a year earlier. He was pleased when it came to loans, guarantees or any form of financial commitment, the NEB had made it clear that it would not be involved in decision making at all levels.

It was frustrating for Labour MPs who believed fervently in the principle of an extensive democracy in industry to read in *The Times* "Commitment dropped for worker directors". He hoped this would turn out to be a wrong assumption.

It was prerequisite for the success of the NEB that it did not become a repository for the failures of British industry—an industrial equivalent of a knacker's yard.

Mr Anthony Nelson (Chichester, Conservative) asked the Minister of the House that the recovery of British Leyland had enabled the NEB to have a positive cash flow in the first six months of its operation. Nevertheless, it was not to be provided along the lines envisaged by Mr George in some of the industries which did not have the potential or customers of some of the others.

Mr Nelson said that before they ended up with a massive state conglomerate. It was a shame that MPs had had no opportunity to consider the programme. The Government was not to be allowed to proceed with it without the support of the House.

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### Makers of electrical goods advised to abandon recommended retail prices

Mr Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has called on manufacturers and importers of small electrical goods to abandon the practice of recommending retail prices. He is advising the public to buy at their own discretion.

Mr Hattersley said the report found that in the case of these particular goods the prices recommended by manufacturers and importers were on average 20 per cent below the recommended prices, and in some cases as much as 30 per cent.

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### Tyre safety

Mrs Ann Taylor (Bolton West, Lab) asked the Secretary of State for Transport, what action he was taking to ensure that necessary safety standards were maintained in respect of remould and imported tyres.

Mr John Horam, Under Secretary, in a written reply, said it was already an offence to sell or supply unsafe tyres of any kind. We are however considering further measures to be taken to ensure effective enforcement of the law.

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### Ruling on press release

The Speaker (Mr George Thomas) ruled on a complaint yesterday by Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolton, Lab), on grounds of privilege, about a press release by Arms for Freedom and Enterprise concerning the Attorney General (Mr Geoffrey Howe).

Mr Skinner said he had sent the matter to court to be dealt with. He said he had sent the matter to court to be dealt with.

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THE TIMES  
SATURDAY REVIEW

The rival  
Georges



Far left, George Curzon: 'I could hardly get in a word or a look'  
Above, George Wyndham: He had to contend with strong opposition



Above, Sibell Grosvenor: Her brother estimated that 80 men were in love with her

...deteriorating fast. On January 22 he died, leaving his young wife a widow with two daughters and a son. Henceforth Curzon was free to pursue her with even greater ardour, and also to think of marriage.

After his return to England in September, 1885, George Wyndham resumed the life that he had enjoyed before the army had taken him to Egypt. Yet he was, in a sense, a different person. The old pleasures appeared empty and ceremonial duties a waste of time when compared with the war in the desert. Parties began to pall. Thus he wrote to his father of having "capital fun at Stratway" (the home of his sister Mary who had recently married Lord Elcho) at a hunt with "the best show of foxes I have ever seen" but Mary Elcho was told he was suffering from "restlessness which deprives me of ideas, and compulsory inaction which deprives me of news". "I am not at all sure", he declared of his Egyptian service, "that it was not a preferable life to this of frowning on guard and wasting one's time and money without amusing oneself or doing good to anyone else."

Clearly he was searching for some form of stimulation; and even nature came under the lash of this new melancholia. "There is a good deal of consolation", he wrote, "to be got out of spring, when it is there; when it is not, whether in nature or the inner man, it is impossible to realize it through a medium of black skies and biting winds; and even although the spring does come back in a general way, still the individual flowers never come again, never." But through the "black skies and biting winds" some sunlight was beginning to seep. At about this time Wyndham wrote: "I have been seeing a good deal of Sibell Grosvenor who is very nice to me and nice altogether."

The friendship developed fast; and by the middle of April he was writing: "Dearest S.S. I loved getting your little line the other night. It was such a quick answer to my letter. I hope this one will bring another. I have been thinking of you a great deal and feel as if I have written several times, but know that this was only in imagination. These letters are like the conversations that I have with you (without your knowledge) walking along the line of large pots of flowers in the marble colonnade of the Palace of Consolation, where your soft white dress looks even cooler and more refreshing than the marble on which we stand."

By June, Wyndham was in love. "Darling Sibell", he wrote on June 23, "you cannot imagine how stale, flat and unprofitable everything is to me after my 'Midsummer Night's Dream'. If only I could get Puck's 'Love in Idleness' and squeeze the juice in your dear sapphire eyes."

"The juice of it on sleeping Sibell's upside laid Will make a man or woman madly do"

Upon the next line creature that it sees,"

My head was so full of thoughts as I whirled away from you through the night that I sat up wide awake, without reading, and saw the sun rise; yet now I cannot write all I thought, but only bless you and long to see you again."

Sibell Grosvenor made Wyndham's military duties seem even more commonplace. From St James's Palace he wrote to her on June 24: "I do thank you, darling Sibell, for having written to me. I

like to think of you waking in the Rose Room at six for I know what a dear you look and it is nice to have something delightful to think about in this guard room. I suppose it is a heavenly day, the little circle of sky I can see out of this window above the squalid leads, slate roofs and disgusting yellow bricks of the guard room is lovely; quite sapphire blue with a pyramid of fleecy clouds almost insulting by its loveliness to me caged up in this place so ugly as to be melancholy and so commonplace with everybody talking about things that bore me and the sentries looking so coarse and fond of beer. I have been watching this cloud thinking of it as you dear, and the squalid lead dirt and commonplace of the guard room as my life."

Wyndham was more tentative when he discussed his feelings with his mother in August. He wondered if he could ever make Sibell Grosvenor love him and he explained that, through her, he hoped to gain that impetus which he felt was lacking in his sedentary life. "You know how I have been very hopeless of everything. I am hopeless now of doing any great or useful thing but I have one tiny ray that by devotion I may make one other than myself a little happier without neglecting my duties too much and thus live a life instead of dawdling along together through a useless existence." But Wyndham had to contend with strong opposition. Sibell Grosvenor was some ten years older than her prospective suitor and it was barely two years since the death of her first husband. Her parents were worried by Wyndham's youth and inexperience. Furthermore she had promised her father-in-law, the

Duke of Westminster, that she would not remarry without first obtaining his consent.

The first Duke of Westminster was the archetypal Victorian aristocratic grandee. Vastly rich from his huge estates, which included virtually the whole of Belgrave, a philanthropist and deeply religious, he was also the owner of Eaton Hall, Victorian England's most substantial country house building. George Wyndham had visited this in 1885, and had not cared for it. "I'm quite sure I don't like Gothic architecture", he had told his mother; and he found Westminster's notion of ducal grandeur similarly unappealing. "There is a big chapel and clock-tower like the Houses of Parliament", he had continued, "with clock, value 20,000 guineas, that plays 48 tunes, the same tune every hour for a whole day (Madden- ing 1), today we had 'Jenny Jones, yesterday 'Home Sweet Home'."

Westminster had been created a Duke by Gladstone in 1847 as a reward for his public service and adherence to liberal principles, even though, as a Member of Parliament, he had opposed the Liberal Party's Reform Bill of 1832 and consistently refused ministerial office. His charitable commitments were numerous, leading him to be president of several metropolitan hospitals, the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Institution, the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association and the United Committee for the Prevention of Demoralization of Native Races by the Liquor Traffic. Despite his affection for the Turf (he was probably the most successful racehorse breeder of his generation and

won the Derby five times) Westminster was a prudent man who never bet, not even on one of his own horses. He believed sternly in the creed of duty and was austere and correct in all that he did. He married two impeccably aristocratic wives, having 15 children by them. Despite the 50 indoor servants and 40 gardeners at Eaton, when there was not a house party the Duke lived in a state of quiet domesticity in a few rooms. He mistrusted quick decisions and reversed experience. Neither George Wyndham's youthful charm nor rapid courtship appealed to him and he set his face against granting his daughter-in-law, of whom he was exceedingly fond, permission to marry this romantic young guards officer.

Wyndham was distraught. His parents realized that something should be done to lessen the blow of his disappointment. Thus when he suggested that he might go to India as ADC to his cousin Robert Bourke, later Lord Conesmore, Governor of Madras, his father agreed. The idea came to nothing. So he settled down once more to English life, half content to be still near Sibell Grosvenor yet half miserable at the immensity of the obstacles that stood in their way. By this stage she had become equally fond of him, as another suitor felt obliged to remark in September of the same year.

Since Grosvenor's death, George Curzon had admired the widow as steadfastly as he had the wife. As late as September 3, 1886, he was still writing, after they had made an expedition together to Oxford, in tones of gratified affection: "My darling, what a day yesterday was! beautiful and to be remembered. You shone like a sun ray upon Oxford, idealizing

quite well how unworthy I am, but will try to make up as much as I can by devoting myself utterly to her happiness. Nothing is so useful and the Duke of Westminster sees many objections. I hope you will not mind me writing to declare myself in this way."

Lady Scarborough had no objections and looked upon her prospective son-in-law with great favour. But not even she could dent the stern armour of ducal resistance.

A confrontation seemed to be the only way of settling the matter. On a cold December day Wyndham left his barracks at Windsor for Maidenhead, to visit the Duke of Westminster's southern residence of Cliveden, built by Sir Charles Barry and acquired by the Duke from his first mother-in-law, the Duchess of Sutherland. Here in the great house on a hill beside the banks of the Thames, he attempted to plead his case before the Duke and his second wife Catherine. He did not leave with much success. "I will tell you", he wrote to Sibell Grosvenor on the evening of December 4, after he had returned from his ordeal, "exactly what happened today. It was as everything always is—quite different from what I expected. D (the Duke) does not consider it at all (he takes the ground that I am young and that nothing will make me older). I gave up my day and toiled all the way to Cliveden and was only 50 minutes in the house altogether. I don't know how it happened. I was shown into a room, D came in after a little and was kind. I plunged into the matter after a little and pleaded and was very gentle. I was surprised at his not trying to consider it. The only thing he said with any interest as far as I can make out was to go on saying 'you had formally promised' and repeated your promise again later in a letter. I have you? This surprised me so that I could hardly go on. Well I should have gone on I daresay and said lots more, but he got up and said 'won't you see Katie?' I was rather upset at the time but said yes, so he went away (we were about 1-hour together) then I saw Katie. D said he would not ask me to lunch and seemed anxious for me to go so I went."

A promise made rashly and then renewed in an effort to please her father-in-law had erected a terrible barrier. "You had no right", wrote Wyndham in desperation, "to put yourself in his power when you loved me and I loved you and if it goes on I shall tell him that he had no right, that even if he were your own father, he had no right to accept such a promise from a grown-up person. It is monstrous to make such a slave of you. And what right can he have to tell me not to marry you—None. He admits this, because he said it is not as if my consent was necessary" but repeats that you volunteered to promise... It is because you tried to please him, by submitting so, that we are punished." The Duke must be asked to give Sibell Grosvenor back her promise. "This is the only thing to be done", Wyndham wrote. "You cannot force D to tell a lie by saying he approved of a thing he does not—but I am sure you give him more pain by being in sorrow than would be the case if you married and all went well. Everyone has said this to me of their own accord; first my father... and now today Katie, who says that D says 'that if he felt sure it was for your happiness he would not mind'."

Then, just when all seemed lost, the Duke of Westminster

on December 12, wrote to Mrs Percy Wyndham. She told George that when she had seen the letter she feared that the Duke was going to appeal to her to dissuade her son from pressing his suit. But she had been wrong. The Duke began: "My dear friend, so the die is cast and all is settled" and went on to say that he would no longer oppose the marriage, despite his continuing reservations. Wyndham, in Victoria Barrack, erupted in ecstatic triumph. He celebrated, and commented on these celebrations, in a typically romantic fashion. "I have been very triumphantly happy today", he told his mother, "alone in my castle. I send one song of triumph (it has not survived) written after reading your letter, in it remembering the sunrise at Gibraltar, as the most lovely thing I have seen, and mix it up with the happiest moment of life, winning the most lovely living thing. Since dinner I have written another wild 'whoop' of triumph—which I reserve and I think it probably gives me more pleasure now than it will and I doubt if it ever would please anyone else. Only I had to have a shout and as I have been alone all day I wrote my shout."

He also wrote to the Duke of Westminster, and received the following rather daunting reply.

Eaton, December 14

My dear George,

Thanks for your note. I hope that all will go well, tho' you cannot expect that I give my consent—all that I can do is say that I will not stand in the way of Sibell's and your happiness any longer.

It will be for you to do all you can, in the coming year, to remove all the objections that we all set and fast to resist—and on you the responsibility—and it is no light one—must I say—may God grant you great strength to do your part nobly and well for her sake and for hers.

Yours sincerely,

Westminster

The engagement was announced, and the wedding fixed for the private chapel at Eaton Hall on February 7, 1887. On December 9, from Southport, where earlier in the year he had been elected a Member of Parliament, George Curzon wrote to Sibell Grosvenor about his loss.

My darling Sibell,

And so you have come and you have done what I always felt and said you would some day do: viz: make the happiness out of my life. You have a right to do this of course; you gave and you can take away. I make no complaint; but I realize more fully than ever that you are at an end between me and you; and that that connection which has been the light of my days for seven years is broken for evermore. And yet I would not make you sad; I hope and presume is your gladness. I do not want my last letter to you to be one of bitterness or reproach. Let me therefore say on this last time that I bless you for all the troubles and most of all for the happiness which you have given me. For nearly eight years you have been more to me than anyone else. You have given me thoughts and feelings and emotions—yes—and hours and hours of life which I can never forget till I die. For all this I praise and bless you. I thank you for having so much as designed to look on me, still more for having given me a faint portion of your affection. Now for the last time, as I have done scores and scores of times before, I say God bless you and keep you, and let me sign myself just for this last time

Your ever loving George.

©Max Egremont, 1977.

The Cousins, by Max Egremont, will be published by Collins on January 31 at £6.50.











## A preview of the Presidency?

the Georgia politicians. Joe Lennon was there with his "Omo," "Ambassadors from Utopia," in Miss Omo's workshop celebrating the grand award that has allowed them to stay in the United States. The sheer outrageous presence of Cha and rock star Alan was a couple who do drugs and rock and drug attention. Another fugitive, British Peter Asher, was there to celebrate the American Presidency.

If this concern is a preview of Mr. Carter's Presidency, a Washington pundit like me can read the boxes of every evening for political augury, then I can raise the "down-home" nationalities of the campaign.

glitter, and sardonic at the John Kennedy centre for the performing arts, and shows a reasonably reminiscent of the Royal Festival Show, but that glittered in President Carter's gala was certainly a gold.

**Ned Chail**

## Signs of death

January 31, at prices estimated at between \$30 and \$150. For example, Lot 85, estimated \$60-\$80, is catalogued as "lady weeping at a tomb in a landscape. The inscription reads: 'My dear Mary died 21<sup>st</sup> April 45 Years bright gold frame, the reverse with her compartment, oval 5.1cm x 6cm."

Barley, Nar. 18 Oct. 1725. Obit.  
22 Oct.: 1725. *Une si cruelle*  
*grande affliction*" Henr.  
Cavendish, Lord Harley, was  
the infant son of Edward, the  
second Earl of Oxford and  
Lanc. Henrietta Cavendish,  
Holles, only daughter and he-  
iress of John Holles, last Duke of  
Newcastle of that family.


If you intend to start a co

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# Saturday

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glitter, and sardonic at the John Kennedy centre for the performing arts, and shows a reasonably reminiscent of the Royal Festival Show, but that glittered in President Carter's gala was certainly a gold.

**Ned Chail**

## Signs of death

January 31, at prices estimated at between \$30 and \$150. For example, Lot 85, estimated \$60-\$80, is catalogued as "lady weeping at a tomb in a landscape. The inscription reads: 'My dear Mary died 21<sup>st</sup> April 45 Years bright gold frame, the reverse with her compartment, oval 5.1cm x 6cm."

Barley, Nar. 18 Oct. 1725. Obit.  
22 Oct.: 1725. *Une si cruelle*  
*grande affliction*" Henr.  
Cavendish, Lord Harley, was  
the infant son of Edward, the  
second Earl of Oxford and  
Lanc. Henrietta Cavendish,  
Holles, only daughter and he-  
iress of John Holles, last Duke of  
Newcastle of that family.


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# Saturday

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The first use of  
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**Bevis**

*azad*

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George Hutchinson

# There will be more than one surprise to come for the Tory Jeremiahs

Mr Callaghan is becoming quite chipper these days, at all events in public, and I trust that his air of optimism is well founded. If the economy is really and truly improving, so much the better for everyone: it would be a poor spirit who wished otherwise. There can be no lasting advantage to anybody of good will and reputation in a continuing national decline.

Let us suppose, however (and this is not unreasonable), that the economic outlook is less promising than the Prime Minister would have us believe. Let us suppose, moreover, that his parliamentary calculations and his devotion prove faulty, so that after six months the gamble is seen to have failed and he cannot advance, let alone hope to complete, his very shaky legislation. If only for that reason (and of course there are others) a general election may be forced upon him much as he would prefer to avert the test this year.

What then? On present evidence, the Tories could be expected to win. Yet some of them are still strangely reluctant to acknowledge the prospect.

Is Margaret Thatcher equipped for the responsibilities of premiership? They ask. Is she ready to assume office and form an administration of quality? Given the Queen's commission, could she hope to succeed, or even survive?

To each of these questions one might expect most—but not all—Labour MPs and other committed socialists to answer no. It is in the nature of party politics that they should do so, although with some exceptions. I am not thinking of Mrs Thatcher's opponents, however, but of her well-wishers. In my own experience, these and similar questions are exercising many Conservatives. We might try to examine them.

To begin with, it can surely be said that Mrs Thatcher enjoys the support of the overwhelming bulk of her party. True, her Tory detractors have not all been converted, but they are relatively few in number. In their elected leader the Tories recognize a lady of varied accomplishments (scientific, legal, administrative), undeniable courage, firmness of purpose, application and energy (the product of a strong constitution). They display every token of faith in Mrs Thatcher personally. Where doubt still exists it turns on two considerations: the will and calibre of some of her immediate colleagues and the ability of a Conservative administration to govern effectively if faced with concerted trade union opposition.

As to the first reservation, we might indeed agree that she could be equipped to greater

advantage, not only on the front bench in the House of Commons but within all the arms of the party organization: Central Office, Research Department, area agencies. Not every member of the Shadow Cabinet is doing as much as might reasonably be asked of him, for example in the important sphere of speech making. Mrs Thatcher could afford to be stern with some of them. Equally, she could encourage (or require) Lord Thorpecroft, the party chairman, to be stern with his subordinates as he racks the remaining deficiencies of the central and regional organization—and indeed he cannot be anything else, or he may be accused of risking the election.

Let us assume, however, that the public mood as we know it is maintained, that in the event Labour is dismissed, and that Mrs Thatcher duly completes her romantic journey to 10 Downing Street. The next test is then upon her: to establish a good government that can act with success.

Not long ago I was suggesting in these columns that there are as many (or more) candidates for office outside the present shadow administration as there are in it, although will not weary you by reciting their names again—or not just yet. If this is true, Mrs Thatcher

should be able to form a rather promising ministry, certainly one that is superior to Mr Callaghan's, measured not only in terms of policy but by the individual capacities of those who are likely to comprise it.

There is, I think, an over-large quota of Jeremiahs in the Tory Party. The collective leadership, actual and prospective, may still surprise them. With that, we return to the other aspect of their misgivings: fear that the Tories will not be allowed to govern because of trade union determination to bring them down. To surrender to this belief is to surrender to hopelessness. I may perhaps be forgiven for repeating that it represents a counsel of despair. Mrs Thatcher's purpose, as she has demonstrated again this week, will be to achieve a just and honourable relationship with the unions—millions of whose members and their families will be voting Conservative in the election.

Reconciliation was the theme of the Queen's most admirable Christmas broadcast. Mrs Thatcher recognizes her own duty in this respect—the high responsibility which almost certainly lies before her. Those of us who know her cannot believe that she would ever adopt a narrow policy of antagonism towards the unions,

much less a provocative one, if only because she is too intelligent and has learned an important lesson from Mr Heath's experiences. All the same, she will be looking for a similar attitude of good will in the national interest on the part of the TUC, and is entitled to expect it. Why assume that she will be disappointed? Why not repose a little more confidence in our fellow citizens, as she does?

Two of the most sensitive and perceptive tributes to Lord Avon in Parliament this week were made by members of the Labour Party, Lord Peart and Mr Marcus Lipson. Many must have read them with emotion. Both reflected his influence for unity in his long years of public service up to Suez.

Anthony Eden was admired and respected throughout the country, by people of all parties and of none. He was a truly national figure, and as Lord Peart rightly said, "it is not useful" to reopen Suez on the morrow of his death, when there is so much in his record that we can all agree about and honour.

My own favourite tribute to him was made by Churchill in his memoirs. You may like to be reminded of his feelings after Eden's resignation as Foreign Secretary in 1938, when he could no longer coun-

tenance the Chamberlain government's appeasement of the European dictators.

"Late in the night a telephone message reached me as I sat in my old room at Chartwell that Eden had resigned. I must confess that my heart sank, and for a while the dark waters of despair overwhelmed me. . . . From midnight till dawn I lay in my bed consumed by emotions of sorrow and fear. There seemed one strong young figure standing up against long, dismal, drawing tides of drift and surrender, of wrong measurements and feeble impulses. My conduct of affairs would have been different from his in various ways; but he seemed to me at this moment to embody the life-hope of the British nation. . . . Now he was gone. I watched the daylight slowly creep in through the windows and before me in mental gaze the vision of Death."

"What a noble tribute to a great English gentleman from the greatest of all our leaders. Anthony Eden was sometimes called the glass of fashion; he was also the mirror of honour, whatever our misgivings over the Suez policy—for which other members of his Cabinet were hardly less responsible, among them Harold Macmillan, Selwyn Lloyd and R. A. Butler."



Charles the Bold: a battle in the snow

## Bureaucrats, Brussels and Charles the Bold

As the new EEC Commissioners in Brussels face up to the challenge of giving greater cohesion to the wayward Nine, an anniversary was celebrated which recalled a Europe *sans frontières*. On January 5, 1477, outside the walls of Nancy in Lorraine, Charles, last of the Valois Dukes of Burgundy, known as "The Bold" was killed in battle. Within an hour of slaughter in the snow, the state of Burgundy, a private fief forming a chain through Europe from the Frisian islands to the Franche-Comté, had disappeared.

This multi-lingual phenomenon, linking francophones with teutonic culture, left behind it a political vacuum. The Hasburgs inherited and also obscured the great Burgundian tradition. Their maxim *tu, felix Austria, nube* (happy Austria, marry!) was inspired by the canny Burgundians. As long as dynastic marriages were the lodestar of ducal policy, the state prospered.

But the true heirs of Burgundy have become the bureaucrats of Brussels, for the concept of a multi-national policy was revived by the Treaty of Rome. There was no official representation from the Netherlands, however, at the anniversary ceremonies in Nancy. Mass was celebrated in the church of Bon Secours, which stands in the centre of the battlefield. An exhibition devoted to the battle is being organized at the Musée de Lorraine and the Académie Stanislas, founded in 1750 as a literary and scientific society, held a seminar in the city to discuss the importance of the anniversary.

One is closest to Valois Burgundy in the backwaters of old Bruges or the small gilded towns of the rural south of the duchy, where the great wines of the region were beginning to establish themselves by the time the dynasty fell. And when the EEC Commissioners attend functions at the Hotel de Ville in Brussels they will be surrounded by examples of the golden age of Flemish culture commissioned by Charles the Bold.

Indeed, Brussels was one of the centres of rule of what was considered the most splendid court in Europe. As that great reporter de Commines put it: "The House of Burgundy was an uninterrupted career of peace and plenty." Like his contemporaries, he was at a loss to explain the sudden downfall of an apparently powerful state.

British residents of the Commission recall an earlier alliance based on common enmity towards France and trade interests, and cemented in 1468 by the marriage of Charles to Margaret of York, sister of King Edward IV. The fate of Burgundy and York were to be fatally entwined in the events leading to the last duke's death and beyond, when

the last of the Valois Charles had a falling out with his knight errand, an unequal to the chaos his provocative belief on him a coalition in attempting to st chain of his pos securing a peace Rhine he pro Emperor, the Duke and, above all, the mountaineers twice death knell of Bu their mournful Charles should have lesson after Morax son. Last year th brated this double their army display, drill which served tors so well.

Charles found h ing on two fronts to invade France, of his English b. Although each ag sign a separate p the consent of Edward allowed be bought off by for 75,000 crow understandably, ro strate with his l and, de Commines into a violent pas English, a langua very well, began s the glorious ach his predecessors on of England."

### 3,000 'stout archers'

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It was Charles with recapturing d pressed the final dender in cloth wearing on his belt fleur-de-lys which his position as a I dukes, he rode out enemies. The resul "They became un slowm of the du ing to their relief, killed by a canon soldiers mutilated Governor had to s town to the Duke."

The body, when only be identified I the bedchamber, a ment on which it w in Nancy before b marked by 1477 Cross of Lorraine cross.

John

## All aboard to save the heritage of our steam age railway

The railways were the showpiece of our industrial revolution. The Victorians recognized this, and employed their finest architects to design stations and other railway buildings, which still stand as handsome monuments of that age of steam and self-confidence.

Accordingly, British Rail today finds itself the slightly embarrassed heir of no less than 482 listed buildings, 42 scheduled ancient monuments and 271 stations in designated conservation areas. The showpiece railway stations, designed by Brunel, Tite (Nine Elms), Mocatta (the Brighton Line), Cubitt, Dobson (Newcastle), and the rest form an even more characteristic architectural legacy from the Victorians than their town halls. The original railway companies chose particular styles for different lines: the spiky Gothic of the Cambridge line; the Jacobean of the Leeds to East Grinstead line; the Italianate of the Great Western. British Rail today, obsessed with aircraft, gives the impression that it would pull down all its historic buildings if it had the money, and replace them with nasty, trendy little airport boxes; presumably on the grounds that as it now costs almost as much to go by train as to fly, passengers might as well be processed through mean airport buildings in the corporate BR house style.

A parliamentary question in November elicited the information that of the 3,539 railway stations closed as a consequence of the Beeching report in 1963, 1,570 had been sold. This prompted Marcus Binney, the admirably inquisitive chairman of Save Britain's Heritage, to ask what had happened to the missing 2,000. His inquiries around the country reveal a conservation horror story of historic buildings being left to rot. As a result of his investigations Mr Binney says: "British Rail could do much more to find new uses for the fine old buildings that it no longer requires. There are many large stations (for instance, Shrewsbury) and hotels (St Pancras and Lime Street, Liverpool) too large for BR's needs, which remain half empty. They should be converted and let to other users to the financial benefit both of British Rail and its passengers, and to the architectural benefit of us all."

Marcus Binney has therefore prepared an exhibition of the fate of our railway buildings, as instructive as the one of the death of the English country house that he helped to organize at the Victoria and Albert. It is open at the Heinz

Gallery, RIBA Drawings Collection, Portman Square. The exhibition shows some of the diverse range of our railway legacy: Newmarket old station, which any German schloss would be gratified to have as its orangery; Haymarket, Edinburgh, built in 1840 at the very birth of the steam age; the stately colonnade of Gosport. Another section illustrates the wicked loss we have sustained through demolition, abandonment, and vandal modernization to BR corporate style as witness to the destruction of the Euston arch, the Gothic grandeur of Birmingham Woodside gone; Birmingham Snowhill about to go; Old Burdett of 1842 ruinous.

Another, less melancholy section shows how with a little imagination disused railway buildings can be re-employed and preserved for new uses, now that steam is no longer king: Monmouth and Maldon stations make fine pubs; Fockington, Yorkshire, has been converted into an indoor football pitch and sports centre; Shenton station has become an interpretation centre for the Battle of Bosworth; one small station has been converted into a private house called "Bookend Hall". In built-up areas can be converted into linear parks. In the United States and on mainland Europe they are more imaginative than we are about preserving their romantic legacy of steam, and making their stations central to their towns instead of neglected backwaters. For example, the old station at Lincoln, Nebraska, has been converted into a museum bank for only 75,000 dollars and much of the old railway furniture, including roll-top desks and antique benches, has been preserved for modern use.

Marcus Binney says: "A few of these railway buildings are good enough to be preserved as ancient monuments in their own right. There should now be an attempt on a national scale to find new uses for the others that are redundant and will be declared redundant by future cuts." What he says so obviously makes good economic and conservationist sense that in normal circumstances there would be no hope of those in authority paying any attention to it.

Fortunately our economic crisis now conspires with conservationist arguments to make it fully to consider any more of our rich heritage of railway buildings.

Philip Howard



Photograph by Harry Kerr

## Sportsview

### The Stock answer for football

If it is not in mortals to command unending success, at least something attempted, something done occasionally earns a night's repose. This is a reward few have deserved more than Alec Stock. Until the cards were recently shuffled at boardroom level at Fulham—which led to his dignified withdrawal from the scene because he felt he could no longer contribute—Stock held the distinction after 31 years as various levels of being the longest-serving contemporary manager in the Football League.

Next came success with Queen's Park Rangers whom he took from the third to the first division in successive seasons to equal the feat of Charlton Athletic in the 1930s, achieving on the way the unique double of winning the Third Division Championship and the Football League Cup in 1967.

To be a football manager is to be a leaf at the mercy of every passing wind. Next came gusts which blew him to Luton Town and finally to Craven Cottage where a happy relationship under the chairmanship of Tommy Trinder was crowned when Fulham reached the Cup Final of 1975 for the first time.

The book is snapped shut. But it need not gather dust on a shelf. "I may have cut the odd little notch on the tree in my time," he said, wistfully watching the snowflakes drifting outside. "I may even have developed players like Rodney Marsh, Malcolm Macdonald and Phil Woosnam, and brought Bobby Moore, Marsh, and George Best to Fulham to

entertain. But I have left no telling footprints in the sand like Herbert Chapman, Arthur Rowe or Alf Ramsey, all of whom did something original. Their defensive centre-half, push-and-run style, and wingless wonders respectively are now part of history." Yet he bows to no one in his love for the game.

Born in Somerset of a mining family, Stock has been Stock's abiding interest from his earliest years. Serving operationally in tanks during the war to reach the rank of captain, he recalls those days with affection and gratitude.

"It was both delightful and devastating and quite the best part of my education. The tank mob was a cavalry crowd—yeomanry and all that. And there I was, a miner's son among the upper classes with a fearful inferiority complex. Two subalterns with me were Alistair Hetherington, later Editor of *The Guardian*, and Dick Courage, of the brewing company."

"I learned also that you do your best work when losing, something that was brought home to me later in football."

Thus did the wings spread of a man who joined Charlton in 1936 at three pounds 10 shillings a week with a £10 signing-on fee, and a job on the ground staff for his unemployed father at £3 a week.

With all the knowledge garnered over the years Stock still

remains flexible in his views. They gush forth like a tap turned on to the full. "I believe we have destroyed our national game by sacrificing wingers and inside forwards of the old type. I've always tried to play 4-2-4 and never minded losing a few games to retain those strong points in the cause of entertainment. These days I believe the man on the terrace is given a game he doesn't want and doesn't even understand."

"There has been a deterioration, too, in the boardroom. Everyone wants instant success; fear of defeat is in the air and there are precious few managers bold enough to try to beat the field."

"Our coaching system also is nothing but a sausage-machine providing the same end product, while our top administrators overconsciously would seem, of the world, appear to have deserted the domestic scene—to some extent. Reams of propaganda have now taken the place of personal contact. But I do believe British football the best."

If he were king for a day what would be his first act? "See to it that the experience of men like Stanley Cullis, Joe Mercer, Bill Nicholson, Ted Drake and one or two others are not wholly lost to the game. Football needs them at this moment."

Geoffrey Green



The massive splendour of Suffolk's Newmarket Old station.

## Tucking into the new cheap take-away of oysters and chips

"It's a very remarkable circumstance, sir," said Sam Weller, "that poverty and oysters always seem to go together". It is unlikely that Sam was aware of his remarkable perspicacity, for if the oyster farmers of Alderney are any judge of eating habits dictated by forever rising food prices, the return to oyster eating as a cheap supplement to the family's diet is only round the corner.

Such a change in the national diet, however, could hardly claim any novelty value, for up to the twentieth century oysters were cheap and plentiful and, costing as little as 4d a dozen, were eaten freely by the poorest families in Britain. Only their subsequent scarcity elevated them to the ranks of the luxury foods.

But today, the escalating price of fish and the growing reluctance of housewives to buy it has driven the old-time fish and chip shop proprietor to

look about him for cheaper substitutes to sell with his sizzling but expensively priced chip potatoes.

The most successful saviour to date for the hand of the chip in batter has been the chicken piece, but if some weather-beaten Alderney faces can read their tidal flows, Mr Chip's roving eye has already alighted on the more succulent, saucy shape of Miss Gigas, the fast maturing Pacific oyster.

Noting the almost insatiable demand for oysters in France and Spain, the Alderney growers have now established themselves firmly in the lee of Fort Raz, an old Victorian strongpoint refurbished and re-armed by the German forces of occupation during the last world war, where submerged washed and fed by the waters of the Race, a million gigas spat are growing apace.

The spat, no bigger than small seed on arrival from hatcheries in the United Kingdom, are kept in the seawater beds in finely meshed

sacks for four to five months until reaching a size of about 15 millimetres in diameter, when they are ready for being flown or shipped to the Continental oyster farmers for on-growing to table size.

"Oyster farming brings no one a fortune overnight," said Mr Tony Wolstenholme, a working director of the local industry now trading as the Ile de Raz Marine. "It can take from two to five years for an oyster to reach table size, and in that time you can lose everything."

When the company was first formed it lost 1,800,000 spat in one of the worst February storms the island had known. The same mountainous seas sank Ted Heath's Morning Cloud. The whole future of the company seemed to have been lost overnight.

"But we started again," said Mr Wolstenholme, "replanned the siting of the beds to ensure them as much protection as possible."

"The great incentive behind the project has been to provide the island with another viable local industry. Now I would like to see the young men involved make a go of the business. We have successfully completed our pilot project with a million spat and now we have only to arrange our first consignments to the French and Spanish growers."

Already the Gigas Growers' Association in Britain is promoting the sale of their oyster as a nutritious food supplement in place of fish and scampi. The gigas can also be made into a stew or used as an ingredient, and it can be kept in the home-freezer until wanted.

"The demand for oysters on the Continent is phenomenal," said Mr Philip Rice, a young co-director of the island company, "and with the native oyster becoming so expensive there is a great future for the gigas which is so much cheaper and every bit as tasty."

"For anyone wanting to compare prices, the native *edulis* can cost up to £6 and over a dozen in a good restaurant or oyster bar. The gigas can cost as little as £2, so any fish and chip shop could be selling half a dozen of them for £1, which, with a helping of gigas, provides a good take-away meal."

One problem that faced the Alderney growers was the difficulty of handling the meshed sacks as they became heavier with the constantly growing spat. The wet and slippery gigas provided only a painful finger hold and the beds are a good walking distance from the fort, but like most of their problems which have had to be overcome by sheer ingenuity, the hardship was solved by the purchase in a French village of shoulder yokes made for carrying milk pails.

Some idea of the past popularity of the oyster in Britain can be gained from old records which show that 36,000,000 oysters were landed on the

coasts of England in 1898, and that in World War they were the only hope for a cheap article of diet.

Today, an industry by the hands of fish culturists, from oyster beds to farms. The change is accidental or unlikely, as Huxley wrote the only hope for the future was its ament of oyster in the development of breeding them ensure the safety of "We in Alderney making the most of resources at a time and more people to the food oyster," added he. "Bred in the water around it can be a great fu Alderney reared o

Frank





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## STANDING BETWEEN THE CITIZEN AND THE COURTS

Week's jousting in the Court of Appeal has been of high constitutional importance. The Court is now concluded, and the court at any rate, will declare the law. In the meantime there is much to be said about the constitutional position into which their judgment will fall.

The present stage of development of the country's political institutions the balance of advantages in the direction of ministerial discretion to review—not in order to state discretionary government by judges for discretionary government by ministers—but in order to place a check on abuse, abuse which need not be inevitable or even particularly culpable.

scope of government action has increased, and the scope of ministerial discretion. Ministers, and their advisers, are those who decide matters for the government. Some ministers may lack inclination to do so. Power-hungry, of which there are the most evident, feel they must disregard even their own discretion to observe the law. They cannot now be held on to stand between the government and the public. Parliament is captive to the choice of issues over which it will challenge a minister's discretion, and often lacks the will to press the case home.

er issues of public policy

situation is one which calls for serious reassertion by the one of their historic which is to stand between executive and the citizen to do right is done. In the past the courts have shed of their timorousness in application of that exposed. Their intervention in ministerial discretion which it had come to be supposed that they had no business to have proceeded at an amazing pace. The course by this week's hearing of the Court of Appeal lost momentum.

are two main types of on belonging to the general to which the arguments deployed in this week apply. One is the on placed in him by the criminal statutes which that no prosecution shall right without his leave.

not the type of case now before the courts; it is complicated by legal technicalities it the root of the matter early.

never been the view that here is a prima facie case of offence has been prosecution should follow. Nor are the of the matter and the of about the outcome of the only valid grounds proceeding. The attorney has a duty to weigh questions of public policy to have to consider whether public interest is better by bringing or not bringing prosecution.

is a weighty, and pre-public interest in the enforcement of the law. On the whole, if it does not deserve to be they do not deserve to be

### Is curricula

Gilbert Longden  
1979 prospectus of the College School in Canada (January 8) is indeed a no-nonsense document of another age, and undivided attention given to the pupils' "in all the elementary of an English education... deal of care will be taken to ensure that the pupils are moral and gentlemanly." How many of our today, how many of our are motivated by such a?

the bizarre convention to Britain? which decrees that children should be educated in our children "interfere" with the curriculum not a Secretary of State at least suggest to us that no harm would be done if they were to be overtly to pursue objectives? sincerely,  
GILBERT LONGDEN,  
10, all Gardens, SW7.

### ians in Turkey

Christopher Walker  
evidence requested by Mr S. Hindle (Letters, January 17) Edward Mortimer's statement that the Turks have a "low threshold for internal particularisms" can I think

enacted, and if such laws happen to be enacted they deserve to be repealed. But that consideration is not conclusive in every case. In particular it has not been treated as conclusive, and this goes for attorneys general of all political affiliations, in every case involving strike action or "political" offences such as sedition, incitement and breaches of public order. Nor is it difficult to see why. The objective of the criminal law in its application to those fields is to assist the continuity of production and ensure uninterrupted provision of essential goods and services, or to contribute to the preservation of the public peace and a tolerable degree of social harmony. It becomes a matter of judgment whether a particular prosecution, its form and its timing will help or hinder the realization of those objectives.

The judgment is a political one, in a virtuous sense of that ubiquitous word. It calls for experience, knowledge of the facts, sensitivity to the public mood and a feel for the special situation which is causing the trouble, and acquaintance with public policy, as well as a thorough knowledge of the law. Statutes entrust this judgment to the attorney general, who acts in a quasi-judicial way. His decision is not attributable to the collective responsibility of the government, it is his alone. But that does not mean he should put himself in purdah while making up his mind. He may, and often should, consult his colleagues in government. He may not accept instructions from them.

No dent has hitherto been made in the constitutional proposition that this is the attorney general's prerogative, that his discretion is absolute except in so far as he is answerable to Parliament for his actions. The law officers are not infrequently called to account in Parliament and they have been known to be forthcoming with the reasons for a decision—as was Lord Shawcross, for instance, when, as attorney general in 1951, he was challenged over his highly selective enforcement of the law which then made certain kinds of strike action criminal offences.

If an attorney general orders a prosecution no question of judicial review of his discretion need arise: if the judges think he was wrong they can throw out the case. But if he decides there shall be no prosecution, it is right that the criminal law should remain unenforced in that instance on his unchallengeable say-so, however unreasonable his decision or suspect his motive may appear to be?

### Better placed to make judgment

In the more politically sensitive kind of cases requiring the attorney general's consent he, as a member of the Government, carrying responsibility for the conduct of public policy, having access to information to which only ministers and their advisers are privy, and being free to take extra-legal factors into account, is in a better position to make a judgment than is a court of law. Judges are not, by experience or inclination, best qualified to assess the wider political factors. There is, however, doubt, strong in the minds of some people, whether in modern political conditions an attorney general, who may not be of the most impressive public stature and may be conscious of strong partisan pressures, can be relied upon to reach his decision with proper impartiality and detachment.

be found in the pamphlet by Professor Lang and myself which I was reviewing. Ever since Ziya Gökalp propounded his pan-Turkish theories in 1911, Turkish policy has been dedicated to converting Anatolia, a multi-racial remnant of the Ottoman Empire, into a homogeneous Turkish state; and the Kurds, like the Armenians before them, suffer if they step out of line with this policy. I'm sure Mr Hindle is right in saying that there are good social relations between members of the different communities in Istanbul. But the legal position for the Armenians is not so rosy, as our Minority Rights Group report makes clear: Armenians suffer definite handicaps as regards housing and inheritance merely because they are Armenians. If Turkey is really trying to create a Western European-style democracy (as Mr Hindle suggests), should it not be her first concern to remove these disabilities? Yours sincerely,  
CHRISTOPHER I. WALKER,  
62 Bolingbroke Road, W14,  
January 18.

### A setting for Stonehenge

From Dame Sylvia Crowe and others  
Sir, We have read with interest the proposals for Stonehenge from the Department of the Environment and from the study by the team from Kingston Polytechnic, which were published in *The Times* (December 4 and December 29). They both raise issues of great pub-

He may seriously misdirect himself. More dangerously his discretion not to prosecute could be misused to exercise a dispensing power exercisable in deference to favoured or menacing interests, for which role the trade unions are the leading candidates just now. And such a prerogative power to dispense is not more agreeable to Englishmen in the twentieth century than it was in the seventeenth century.

It is not here asserted or implied that the present Attorney General has acted in any such spirit in the present case. He insists that he is not required to explain himself to the court, and he means to do so to the House of Commons at the first opportunity. Until he is heard he is not to be judged.

If the courts were to assume or be given a power of review over the attorney general's statutory responsibility for instituting criminal proceedings, it is one they should exercise with circumspection, upsetting his discretionary decision only on the strictest test of unreasonableness, acknowledging the advantage his ministerial position confers upon him when it comes to weighing the factor of public policy, and remembering the legitimate interest of Parliament in that aspect of the question.

### Uncertain rules of law

The present case, arising out of the Post Office unions' declared intention to participate in a week of international trade union dispute towards the South African Government, raises much the same broad constitutional issues, though they are overlaid by legal technicalities. The Attorney General has come into the picture because it is his function to enforce public law rights by the machinery of the civil law, including the right to foretell intended criminal actions by means of an injunction. The Common Law has it that any other citizen can enforce a public right only if he can show a special interest in the matter going beyond that which is general to the public as a whole. Failing that he can only proceed if he persuades the attorney general to join him in the action—a relation action, as it is called.

Whatever else the week of argument has achieved, it has shown up these relation procedures as lacking a firm foundation in reason and as capable of producing the oddest results. It would have been open to anyone of his own motion to bring a private prosecution against an identifiable postal worker who had obeyed his union's boycotting instructions, but no one could apply for an injunction in advance to prevent that very offence being committed unless he could get the Attorney General to come in with him (or so it was assumed until the Court of Appeal took a hand in the matter). And that is only one of the anomalies.

Whatever the Court of Appeal decides, enough has now been exposed to view to require Parliament, preferably with the assistance of the Law Commission, to review and reform the uncertain rules of law which purport to make the attorney general's consent a precondition for civil proceedings of this kind. And it should approach the task with the predilection that no member of the government, even one possessing the hybrid character of a law officer of the Crown, should be allowed to stand, proof against challenge, between the citizen and the courts.

lic concern, since they affect the preservation not only of one of the world's great archaeological treasures, but also of one of England's most famous landscapes. The present state of affairs is profoundly unsatisfactory and undoubted action is urgent. However, there is far too little information on the likely impact of the department's proposals or of their presumed benefits to the public. Perhaps part of the problem lies in the fact that responsibility for Stonehenge and its setting is divided among many different agencies. There is no one body corresponding to the curator of a major museum with the position and powers needed for an appraisal of the range of issues involved.

Any future scheme must somehow reconcile the competing claims of archaeological conservation, the quality of the landscape and the nature and significance of the experience of Stonehenge for large numbers of visitors. In order that judgments can be made on these important matters, it would surely be appropriate to ask for a public exhibition designed not to sell a particular solution but to explore and illuminate the extremely complex and sensitive problems of this unique national possession. Yours faithfully,  
SYLVIA CROWE,  
GLYN DANIEL,  
ESHER,  
STUART PIGGOTT,  
82 Sloane Street, SW1,  
January 20.

## Rejecting the monetarist remedy to our economic ills

From Mr Reginald Maudling, MP for Chipping Barnet (Conservative)

Sir, I was fascinated by your reference, in your leading article on January 19, to my "crude fiscal and monetary expansionism". As this has become part of the common jargon of those who, like you, have been captivated by the latest trend in monetary economics, I thought I might ask for a little elucidation. My Budget of 1963 was designed to achieve economic expansion at a time of heavy unemployment and under use of capacity, about which unions and management alike were complaining. Its main effects were to make large reductions in direct taxation on individuals and new allowances to companies, and it was designed, after consultation with the NEDC, to make the Government's maximum contribution to removing unnecessary obstacles to growth.

Between the 1963 Budget and the fall of the Conservative Government in October 1964 the money supply, to which you attach so much importance, in relation to GNP hardly varied. Output increased by nearly 15 per cent and inflation was at the rate of 4 per cent. I do not recall that the economic pundits of the press then criticized the degree of inflation which I introduced. *The Economist*, if I recall correctly, described my Budget in the phrase, "Down the road, half speed ahead". You yourself, Sir, described my basic Budget judgment that the economy needed a stimulus of £250m as "wise".

No doubt much has changed since then, and not, one has to admit, for the better. But your leading article seems to me to show quite clearly that while Keynes would have adopted the working out of his principles to modern social conditions, the reaction preferred by you and the monetarists is a return to Victorian economics. The reason why the operation of Keynes's principles, as he foresees it, needs change is because of the new fact of life, namely the awareness on the part of the trade unions of their monopoly power over the community as a whole. Keynes's reaction would have been, I am sure, to come to terms with reality. Yours appears to be to ignore it.

What strikes me more than ever reading your leading article, is how much the problems so often described as economic are really political, or even moral. You seem to subscribe to the theory held on the right of economics and politics, that Government should be guided by the "stake up a boom for the sake of some short term alleviation of the trend of unemployment". You know, this just is not true, and it does no justice either to politicians or to those who elect them. There is no virtue in unemployment. It must be a sign of mismanagement if hundreds and thousands of able bodied men and women

seeking work can find no use for their talents or their labour. No doubt modern social security has alleviated the suffering of the past, but do not let us for one moment ignore the wound that it inflicts on those who suffer, or the shame it brings on any who regard it with equanimity.

Secondly, there is the waste of resources. Idle men who could be producing and, as always happens in such circumstances, countless people who are producing less than they would do for fear of unemployment, means a wastage of human resources at a time when so many of our people, the poor, the sick, the old, the infirm, are crying out, and crying out rightly for more aid and sustenance.

Thirdly, it means not only an underuse of industrial capacity, but an unwillingness to invest in any new capacity. Surely experience has now taught us that whatever fiscal or monetary inducements you may give to a businessman to invest in plant and machinery, he is unlikely to do so long as he can see no market for the products of his existing capacity.

So I beg of you, do not undertake successive Chancellors of the Exchequer. They have not on either side been fickle men seeking merely to appease some political pressure by the injection of taxpayer's money into a flagging economy. They have recognised the fact that unless demand is adequate you will have unemployment, stagnation and a lack of investment and these are just the things that a civilized Government and a civilized Chancellor of the Exchequer should fight against in every way they can.

But the sentence in your article that interests me most, is the one that brings out the true nature of the monetarist's view of how to handle the basically political problem of managing the economy. You say that, "The acid question remains whether the Government, any Government, can go on indefinitely resisting the political pressure to move in this direction (ie, deflation), even though it may take years before the effects of epidemic recession on pay determination and work practices eventually begin to bring unemployment down". What could be clearer than that?

In the old days the slogan was, "treat them mean and keep them keen". Keep unemployment up, stagnation and investment down indefinitely until the workers have learnt their lesson, until the trade unions stop demanding too much money, and give up restrictive practices. This, in blunt language, is what you really mean. It is a rational point of view. It is a point of view held by many people. It is central to the whole theme of monetarist economics. But in the modern world it is profoundly wrong, because it will not work,

and in the process of failure it will disastrously divide the nation.

So, Sir, I welcome your article for so clearly setting down the respective attitudes of the Keynesians and the monetarists to the problems that we call economic, but are really social and political. There are two ways of tackling the problem of inflation. There is that of those who believe that the problem of cost inflation is the essential one, that it arises from monopoly power of the unions, and this can only be solved by political methods. There are those, like you, who believe with intellectual vigour and probity that such an idea is an illusion, and that only a return to the rigours of supply demand economics can so reduce the power of the unions as to make expansion without inflation a possibility.

But, Sir, what does depress me more than anything else, is the lack of any real reference in your article to expanding production. Indeed, you seem almost to share the view of those who regard economic growth as some evil affliction of the trendy left wing politicians. But the truth is that growth is what the problem is all about. People want to lead a better life. The public services, though costly, still fall lamentably short of what is desirable. The desires of individuals are frustrated by penal levels of taxation. Our economy is constantly hampered by an overburden of expenditure.

Some look at this problem saying the difficulty is that we are spending more than we are earning. I believe the answer is rather that we are earning less than we are spending, and far, far less than we could earn from our own resources in a very short time. It is insane to this country that from the same machinery, we produce far less than people in other Western countries. It is ridiculous that our reputation for delivery should be so inestimable throughout the world. It is virtually crazy that we produce little more now from a full working week than we produced during the three day week. We have the capacity to produce much more immediately from our existing resources, and to add more rapidly than we are doing so should we produce resources. That is the real problem.

If, Sir, as I am sure you are, you are concerned above all with the happiness of the British people, could you not concentrate your attention in giving us all some guidance as to how together we could work our way out of our present economic malaise and restore our industrial morale? It could be done so easily, so quickly, if only we had the will and the sense of purpose. Can you give any help to provide them?

Yours faithfully,  
REGINALD MAUDLING,  
House of Commons,  
January 20.

### Bringing spies to book

From Sir Arthur de la Mare  
Sir, In his article on spies in London (*The Times*, January 15) Mr George Hutchinson says that some of the contemporaries of Maclean, Burgess, etc. "were of the self-same mould and similarly recruited into Soviet service".

I was Head of the Security Department of the Foreign Office between 1953 and 1956, not when Burgess and Maclean absconded but when the whole incident and its implications were exhaustively investigated. There were certainly people in Whitehall, other than those Mr Hutchinson mentions, who came under close scrutiny, but I cannot recall that, during the time I was connected with the investigations, any conclusive evidence was found.

I believe that Mr Hutchinson is right in his allegations: there were almost certainly others in Whitehall who had been recruited into Soviet service. But Mr Hutchinson says that he could name names. He gives altogether valid reasons—the laws of libel—for not publishing them.

What he does not say is whether he took or has taken the action open to him without danger of libel proceedings. A man in my position must know how to pass information to the Security Service. Did he give them the names of these other alleged traitors? Perhaps he did. I certainly hope so, but it would go some way towards reassuring the public if he could confirm that he did.

I personally believe, and said at the time, that we went far beyond the requirements of justice, scruple and decency in our over-pursuit adherence to the principle that a suspect is innocent until proved guilty. That was at least partly the reason why Philby was not brought to book. But Mr Hutchinson gives the impression that he has definite knowledge of the guilt of these others whom, quite understandably, he does not name. So my question remains: did he pass this knowledge to the appropriate authorities?

Yours faithfully,  
ARTHUR DE LA MARE,  
The Birkbeck,  
Onslow Road,  
Walton-on-Thames,  
Surrey,  
January 15.

### Cutting the arts grant

From Mr Julian Lloyd Webber  
Sir, There can be few areas of merit in which it can be said that Britain undoubtedly leads the world. Music is one, and it would surely be a matter of grave national concern if the Government were to effectively cut the Arts Council subsidy for this year.

Mr Roy Shaw, the Arts Council Secretary-General, has stated publicly that an increase of £9m on last year's principle is essential if the arts in this country are even to be maintained at existing levels, and with the imminent announcement of the 1977 allowance it would surely be worth reminding ourselves that the four London orchestras' combined annual grant remains less than that of the Berlin Philharmonics. Yours faithfully,  
JULIAN LLOYD WEBBER,  
124 Wigmore Street, W1,  
January 17.

## Union of the Churches

From Mr Paul Tyler

Sir, I suspect that many active Anglicans will be dismayed by the reported recommendation of a joint commission of the two churches that, should the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England ever combine, the Pope should be recognized as the logical head.

Nor that there may be some merit in the suggestion, but that it is of such mind-boggling irrelevance. It is almost beyond belief that any contemporary churchman could waste time on such an issue, when we are faced with so many pressing problems.

Furthermore, this extraordinary exercise could cause positive harm to the much more important and feasible ecumenical movement towards Anglican-Methodist reunion. The faltering steps taken since the disappointment a decade ago, when technicalities were allowed to slow progress, have recently appeared to quicken again. This has been especially noticeable here in Cornwall, where the strength of both churches means that practical co-operation between two equal partners reduces suspicions and tensions.

Is this real progress towards reunion to be put at risk by some premature theorizing? I do not want to expect the leaders of my church to be wholly worldly, but I would hope that they retain at least a tenuous link with reality.

Yours etc,  
PAUL TYLER,  
Tregrove House,  
Rice Mill,  
Callington,  
Cornwall,  
January 19.

From the Reverend F. H. Hargroves  
Sir, Am I alone in feeling perturbed by the pronouncement of the Anglican and Roman Catholic theological commission issued this week. Having dragged ourselves free from the wreckage of our struggle after organic and structural unity to embrace a new and higher goal of mutual recognition, we appear to have returned to the old familiar objection of a decade or so ago. What a sad beginning to the week of prayer for unity. Yours sincerely,  
FRANK HARGROVES,  
The Vicarage,  
5 Burwood Road,  
Hersham,  
Walton-on-Thames,  
Surrey,  
January 20.

### Subsidized phone calls

From the Senior Director: Customer Services, the Post Office  
Sir, Mr Richard Wood (Letters, January 19) is, of course, quite correct in concluding that directly dialled calls from coinbox telephones are currently subsidized by other telephone business.

When telephone charges were last increased—more than 15 months ago in October 1975—we would, had we been able, have proposed increases for dialled calls from coinboxes to rectify that situation. In fact it was technically not possible to do that without changing coinbox mechanisms to accept a 5p coin instead of 2p and adjusting the time the customer bought for 5p.

The parts needed to make this change to our 300,000 coinbox telephones could not be manufactured in time for the price changes in October 1975. Since then the Post Office, as most readers will be aware, has publicly pledged to hold all telephone charges until at least July 31 this year—a total of 21 months without increase. There are good prospects that this subsidy can be maintained until the end of March 1978. The price pledge applies to call charges from coinbox telephones as well as charges for other telecommunications services.

We accept that coinbox call charges represent pricing anomalies, but our overriding aim is to maintain price stability for all telephone charges for as long as possible. Yours faithfully,  
R. MARTIN,  
Telecommunications Headquarters,  
212 Greenwich Street, EC2,  
January 21.

### South Bank parking

From Mr Alan Blith  
Sir, Has the GLC taken leave of its collective senses? At a time when two new theatres have opened on the South Bank (and another will shortly come into operation) it has decided to close the largest car park in the area to the west of the Festival Hall, thus causing worry and annoyance for those who go to these theatres, to the concert halls and to the Hayward Gallery for pleasure or as part of their work. It is true that the National Theatre's own car park is now open, but that hardly compensates in numbers for the loss already referred to, and is in any case open only to those attending the theatre. Perhaps someone on the council would like to explain its extraordinary decision? Yours faithfully,  
ALAN BLITH,  
11 Boundary Road, NW8,  
January 18.

### Pleasing Aunt Edna

From Mrs Ernest Raymond  
Sir, I was sad to see in Stanley Reynold's otherwise sympathetic review of Terence Rattigan's *The Winslow Boy* the resurrection of "Aunt Edna". I thought this ghost had been laid. Eminent and perceptive critics have given Terence Rattigan a high place among dramatists, old or new. Surely the marvellous balance of the play would have been flawed if we had seen the villainous "authority". As Meredith had it: "No villain need be! Passions spin the plot." We were enthralled, excited and moved because *The Winslow Boy* was about the passions of real people. Do we need more? Yours sincerely,  
DIANA RAYMOND,  
22 The Fryers,  
East Heath Road, NW3,  
January 17.

### Training our masters

From Professor B. B. Schaffer  
Sir, Your report (January 18) of the reorganization of training in the Civil Service suggests three questions.

The first is whether training could indeed lead "to a new style of public administration". Those disappointed with the present Civil Service College and who somewhat laze in the day see the fault in Fulham might note that training institutions, for demonstrable reasons, have never anywhere by themselves achieved that sort of change.

The second question is what is actually happening now. Apparently the Expenditure Committee's general sub-committee is still working, the Civil Service Department has already decided what is to happen. It might well be that the only hope for training lies in much closer relations with the service and persons who are not attached to Paris should not let us assume, however, that our masters understand or would be prepared to copy the French. That would mean much more change than appears so far or the department might like.

The third question is about the proposed change to "middle thirds". It is not much easier for the civil to follow the military than the French services. We should remember the now familiar problems and disappointments of this type of mid-career transfer. Many cases are placed in Paris should not let us assume, however, that our masters understand or would be prepared to copy the French. That would mean much more change than appears so far or the department might like.

B. B. SCHAFER,  
Professorial Fellow,  
Institute of Development Studies,  
University of Sussex,  
Falmer,  
Brighton,  
January 19.

From Professor P. G. Forrester  
Sir, In your leading article today (January 18) you give support to a proposal for a new public service staff college. May I respectfully suggest that the setting up of

### Marketing of fish

From the National President of the National Federation of Fishmongers  
Sir, One read with interest Mr Lipman's letter (January 10) concerning the marketing of fish. The assertion that the Price Commission's report was scathing is not true. The Commission produced a well balanced study of the retail and wholesale sections of the industry and clearly explained why fish sometimes increased in price four times between port and retail customer. For example, weight losses alone through filleting at the port multiplied the cost by two to two and a half times, before the wholesaler's profit, retailer's profit, packing, ice and transport costs, the latter having escalated out of all proportion in recent years. The report concluded that there was no evidence of excess profits being made, and added that if there was room for improvement in the over-

all efficiency and organization of the trade a detailed investigation would be necessary.

Mr Lipman's comparison with the Milk Marketing Board's efficient transport system was surely done with tongue in cheek. Cows are in the same place every night, unfortunately fishing boats are not. To say that fish will soon be on a par with fillet steak is a gross exaggeration; expensive as it may be it still is one of the cheapest high protein foods available today.

My Federation accepts that there is room for improvement in this complex industry and we are quite prepared to meet any government department with all sections of the trade to improve the overall efficiency in the marketing of fish. Yours truly,  
JOHN ADAMS,  
Queensway House,  
2 Queensway,  
Redhill,  
Surrey,  
January 11.











## Racing

**By Michael Seely**

[illegible]

# Snow and tyre regulation a handicap for Lancias

Monte Carlo, Jan 21.—Sandro Munari, of Italy, will attempt to break a record by winning the Monte Carlo rally for the fourth time. The motoring event begins tomorrow with 215 entrants converging here from seven European cities.

Heavy snow in the tricky Alpine stages will make the going tough even for Munari, who drove a Lancia to victory in 1972, 1975 and 1976. His third successive win could depend on how the powerful, wedge-shaped Lancia Stratos handles winter tyre regulations which have been changed again by the organisers this year.

Diminishing interest in the event, which once vie formula one grand prix race, has meant the can of two planned starting points, London and Salamanca, have been omitted. Lisbon, Rome, Warsaw, bagno, Monte Carlo, Fe Almeria, Spain, as start-up.

The competitors will be a 1,250-mile stage to Lancia followed by a special stage. On Monday they leave Monaco for that stage, 1,000 miles of racing driving in which conditions and they way react to the specially-ply tyres can settle the race.

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## Rugby League

# Rewards that await one side of split personality

Blackpool Borough, one of the weakest teams in the Rugby League, have proved themselves a revelation on the big occasion this season and hope to make history at Salford today. Blackpool, who have never won a big competition, meet Castleford in the final of the Player's No 6 Trophy, their first involvement in a cup final in 23 years.

They lose and £5,000 if the second division match ends in a draw. Blackpool, the biggest outsiders even a Rugby League trophy if succeed. However, in these games this season there is no doubting the quality play.

Castleford, third in the

Blackpool have disposed of Barrow, Halifax, Workington Town and Leigh in previous matches. Whatever the result, it will be Blackpool's richest pay-day with an expected £2,000 from the gate receipts, £3,000 prize money if

knows he can take no granted against a side that experienced a booker in the centre of the defence. He has the backs and an ideal goal keeper, an ideal goal keeper and also responsibility of kicking.

**Tennis**

**Instant justice for court misdemeanour**

Paris, Jan. 21.—The International Professional Tennis Council today announced an experimental system to penalize players who delay matches, argue with umpires or behave obscenely.

The scheme, announced at the end of the two-day ITPTC meeting, will be put into practice at Forest Hills, New York, and at nine other tournaments in the coming season. Penalties will range from a warning to losing the point, a game or the whole match, Mr. David Gray, the secretary-general of the International Lawn Tennis Federation, told reporters.

It is in the form of instant justice," Mr. Gray said, adding: "A great deal depends on the number of the umpires." The new ITPTC brings together representatives of the ILTF, the Association of Tennis Professionals and the

**EBU take aw Bugner's European title**

Paris, Jan. 21.—British Bugner has been stripped of his European heavyweight title by the European Boxing Union the Union's president, Lucien Leclerc, said here today.

He said the decision was by the majority of the Union member executive committee Bugner failed to respect it deadline to defend his title the challenger, Joe Frazier, in a fight in the United States.

Control, the article, said of the EBU had asked for a time to be extended for the fight from December 1, 1969 to December 31 and January Leclerc said.

Bugner won the European when he knocked out Dunn in London last October. He has since since since retirement.—Reuter.

The Blackpool promoter Goodall said yesterday was confident he would get

of ATP, said that players' representatives of the council had voted for including Forest Hills in the list. He added "We would vote against using it in the French championships or Wimbledon. One experiment at a grand slam event is enough."

Forest Hills was accepted for the experiment because it comes late in the season and will give players a chance to study the conditions to the player code of conduct.

Reuter and AP.

Cuello (Argentina) at I Stadium—and expects to firm announcement will next 48 hours.

Mr. Goodall claims Cuello's signature on a card that he has received with Concha after the 5 had turned down his £100.

But the contest is now open to pursue efforts Goodall has to persuade the Boring Council that he has finalized the contest

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## Latest European snow reports

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Off Runs to piste resort	Wt. (A)
Champery	35 170	Piste Good	piste resort Powder Fair	Fine
Courmayeur	170 245	Good	Varied Good	Fine
	Powder on north facing slopes			
Crans-Montana	110 200	Good	Varied Good	Fine
	Good skiing everywhere			
Davos	120 175	Good	Powder Good	Fine
	Powder on north facing slopes			
Flaine	110 260	Good	Varied Good	Fine
	Excellent piste skiing			
Kitzbühel	60 150	Good	Powder Good	Fine
	Excellent; skiing everywhere			
Lermoos	70 140	Good	Powder Good	Fine
Les Arcs	115 215	Good	Powder Good	Fine
	Perfect skiing conditions			
Les Menuires	68 195	Good	Varied Good	Fine
	Excellent skiing conditions			
St Moritz	60 175	Fair	Varied Good	Fine
	Still good skiing on piste			
Seefeld	60 100	Good	Fair Good	Fine
	One or two worn patches			
Val d'Isère	110 210	Good	Varied Good	Fine

Villiers	Slopes	63	170	Good	Varied	—	Fine
Excellent skilling, all runs open.							
Villars		70	140	Good	Varied	Good	Fine
Powder on north facing slopes							
<b>In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski- Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slope following reports have been received from other sources :</b>							
	Depth State of snow	L	Powd	Weather	Cel	Gai	90 105 Good +
					L	Hammamur	95 145 Good +
						Touffey	100 140 Good +
						Ozmo	120 145 Good +
						Huklan	150 170 Good +
<b>FRANCE</b>							
Aix de Chaux	160 150	Good	Sun	---	---	---	---
Chamonix	70 490	Good	Sun	---	---	---	---
Morillon	100 520	Good	Sun	---	---	---	---
Megève	130 525	Hard	Sun	---	---	---	---
St-Jean	110 500	Good	Sun	---	---	---	---
Pra-Loup	100 500	Good	Sun	---	---	---	---
<b>NORWAY</b>							
Kviteseid	90 105	Good	---	-16°	---	Masfjell	90 105 Good
Gaste	110 120	Good	---	-16°	---	Masfjell	90 105 Good



# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

### Japan says Brussels role export talks may endanger pacts with UK

Other imported models—from Europe particularly—then the point of such policies was lost. Restraint, the Japanese stressed, must not become permanent.

Officials yesterday rejected allegations that Japanese car makers had broken promises not to increase their share of the British market beyond a certain level last year.

In a detailed paper on British trade, issued yesterday by the Japanese Embassy in London, the government said that the restraint deals negotiated so far indicated a genuine desire not to damage British industries.

Exercise of such restraint was not easy against the background of complaints from Japanese companies that their forbearance and loss of profits were exploited by third countries. There were also difficulties caused by new entrants challenging the major exporters—in the case of cars, with Nissan and Toyota under pressure from Honda and Mitsubishi.

Japan's Fair Trade Commission obliged car exporters to agree to reduce natural competition between companies.

Tokyo officials were at pains yesterday to emphasize the good will towards Britain which exists in Japan and pointed to the Japanese contribution of more than \$1,000m to the IMF standby credit to Britain.

Japan's efforts in that context would not have been extended for other countries.

### Bonn aid for economy on Chequers agenda

From Peter Norman

Bonn, Jan 21

When Herr Helmut Schmidt, West Germany's Chancellor, meets Mr Callaghan at Chequers on Sunday he is likely to go only half way towards meeting the British Government's wish for a rapid expansion of the German economy.

Herr Schmidt can be expected to outline plans now being prepared by his Government to create new jobs by spending up to DM10,000m (about £2,325m) over the next four years on projects to improve Germany's economic infrastructure.

However, he will tell his British hosts that the German Government does not intend to compromise in the fight against inflation and does not believe that a stimulation of demand in Germany would cure unemployment.

Bonn sources acknowledge that the public spending programme which is likely to be put to the Cabinet in March, will go only part of the way towards alleviating unemployment, already above a million.

But Bonn's argument is that unemployment would not be solved by a general reflation, which in turn could jeopardize the success achieved by Herr Schmidt's government in keeping inflation at an annual rate of less than 4 per cent.

Unemployment and economic developments in Germany and Britain are likely to be major topics in the talks between the two leaders. It is indicative that Herr Schmidt's entourage will include Dr Hans Friedrichs, his Minister of Economics, and Herr Hans Apel, the Finance Minister.

The two sides can also be expected to review thoroughly economic developments on a world scale, not least because of the pending economic summit meeting of top western leaders.

Sources in Bonn have stressed that Herr Schmidt lays great emphasis on a careful preparation for the summit to ensure a successful outcome.

A "successful" outcome from the West German point of view would be one in which the world's leading industrial nations underlined their willingness to concert economic activity and possibly agree on incentives to encourage industry to undertake the investments needed to create new jobs.

In its relations with Britain, the German Government can point out that it has already shown a great deal of solidarity in helping Britain out of its economic difficulties, via the IMF loan and safety net for sterling.

For this reason, Herr Schmidt and his team will doubtless be looking for British concessions in one important area. Bonn does not want to renew the heated exchanges the EEC pointed out that European car manufacturers could not meet the controls by next year, and the issue would lead to a further deterioration in the long-standing trade balance.

### BSC reveals £240m development schemes, but five plant closures

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Five plants employing 800 workers are to be closed down by the British Steel Corporation because of poor trading conditions. But the BSC softened the blow yesterday with announcements of a £240m development at its works at Shelton and a £220m first phase development at Hunterston in Ayrshire.

Sir Charles Villiers, chairman of the BSC, told leaders of the Scottish TUC yesterday that the new era terminal at Hunterston would come into operation next year.

It will be capable of handling four million tonnes of imported ore annually. The first phase of an iron ore direct reduction plant linked to the terminal would start up at the end of next year, with the first steel coming from adjacent electric arc furnace facilities being commissioned in 1980-81. This would bring total investment on the site to £220m.

But Sir Charles would give no commitment on the date for the development of a major integrated steelmaking complex on the site.

The aim of the Hunterston development will be to boost Scottish steel output to 4.5 million tonnes a year by the end of the present decade against present installed capacity of 2.3 million tonnes.

Such a target would mean that about half of the Scottish steel output would have to be sold south of the border or exported, a fact which prompted Sir Charles to observe: "We have quite a job on our hands."

Plant closures announced



Sir Charles Villiers: "Quite a job on our hands."

yesterday involve four of the steel prefabrication plants operated by the corporation's subsidiary Redpath Dorman Long. The plants at Mossend, Lanarkshire, Redcar, Yorkshire, East Greenfield and Stoke-on-Trent together employ 700 people, and they are all involved in structural steel engineering.

The cutback on power station ordering, the slowdown in the BSC's own investment programme and the general depression in the building industry prompted the decision. Difficult conditions have already led to cost-cutting operations, curbed overtime and non-replacement of workers who leave within the RDL subsidiary, and attempts to boost exports have been unsuccessful.

Closures of the four plants will reduce the RDL operating

capacity by 20 per cent, but it is hoped that alternative work will be found for some of the workers affected.

The corporation is also closing down plant at East Greenfield, employing 100, which is operated by a subsidiary—British Steel Service Centres—which is engaged in stockholding activities. The works handles reinforcing steels where present demand is 40 per cent below original forecast levels.

About £20m is to be spent on the installation of a Japanese-designed electric arc steel-making plant at its Shelton works, due to start operation early in 1979.

It will have an annual capacity of 350,000 tonnes, and will supply steel to the works' continuous casting and rolling facilities.

The move foreshadowed in the review of the BSC's plant closure programme undertaken by Lord Beswick will involve the closure of existing iron and steelmaking facilities at the plant.

Shelton at present employs 2,100, under the Beswick provisions a loss of between 800-900 jobs was forecast as a result of the electric arc furnace introduction. The figure could now be higher.

A spokesman said that agreement had been reached between management and unions at the plant. The new facilities would be realistically manned to international standards, with the aim of establishing a high productivity, high play plant.

"There is a very clear understanding that there will be a reduction in manning," he added.

### Two more Leyland works reject fringe deal

Leyland Cars' proposed deal for fringe benefits in return for fewer strikes met further opposition yesterday when workers at two Oxford plants voted to reject it.

A mass meeting of workers at the Cowley export packing factory rejected the deal by an overwhelming majority, and more than 800 workers at the north Oxford components plant unanimously voted against it. The components workers also endorsed a motion of no confidence in the union team which negotiated the deal.

The deal has already been rejected by Jaguar and Triumph workers. Much of the opposition to it is based on fears that Leyland intends to replace individual plant negotiations by central bargaining on Ford lines.

### Independent Italian unions join forces

Five independent Italian trade unions yesterday formed a loose association to increase their bargaining power and compete with the three major trade union federations. Claiming 500,000 members among them, they declared that their first aim was to be consulted by the Government, like the federations, on economic policy.

A spokesman for the communist-orientated union, CGIL, said it was "a further attempt by moderate and conservative forces to disorientate and divide the workers by bringing the federations to their knees with the blackmail of the economic crisis".

Computers defended

Computer systems faced security problems but were twice as secure as manual systems, Mr Gerry Fisher, president of the British Computer Society, said yesterday. Recent moves towards an increase in on-line computing had made security problems more acute, Mr Fisher admitted, but the necessary precautions were available and were well known.

### Car registrations up

New car and van registrations last month totalled 62,886, a rise of 10,169 over December, 1975. On a seasonally adjusted basis, registrations were estimated to be running at a monthly rate of 102,000, compared with 111,000 in November. In the final quarter of 1976 registrations were averaging 106,000 a month, compared with 97,000 in the previous quarter. Over the whole year registrations were 1,807,519 in 1976.

### Cigarette rise trimmed

A further move yesterday in the tobacco price war for the king-size cigarette market was a decision by Philip Morris to absorb part of the new Customs duty increases on its Marlboro brand. Despite a 4p duty increase, Marlboro packs of 20 will rise by only 2p on Monday, setting a new retail price of 52p.

### Woolco hypermarket

F. W. Woolworth has applied for permission to build a Woolco hypermarket at Bulwell, near Nottingham. The local authority has not yet granted approval for this, contrary to a report in The Times Business News on Thursday.

### C dismisses shipbuilding complaint

Industrial court

Shipbuilders have used by the EEC Commission of allegations of quotas for new ships at prices.

Merged yesterday after protests from European yards that they have to secure a greater share of the reduced demand for new ships because of price-cutting.

Commission had been asked to establish whether yards had been offered prices which were below market value, and also whether dumping action had been taken under the Competition laws and a General Agreement on Trade.

It had found that Japanese yards, which had been offering prices below market value, had been offering prices below market value, and also whether dumping action had been taken under the Competition laws and a General Agreement on Trade.

It had found that Japanese yards, which had been offering prices below market value, had been offering prices below market value, and also whether dumping action had been taken under the Competition laws and a General Agreement on Trade.

### Concession by Tokyo on foreign cars

From Peter Hazelhurst

Tokyo, Jan 21

Japan decided today to waive its new emission control laws—the strictest in the world—for foreign cars for a grace period of three years after the new standards are enforced in April, 1978.

The decision, designed to ward off Europe's complaints over Japan's large surplus in trade between the two areas, was taken by the Cabinet this morning and the Ministry of Transport is expected to revise the country's car standards regulations next week.

The outcome, the result of a protracted round of hard bargaining between the EEC and Japan, was greeted as a major breakthrough by agents for foreign car producers in Tokyo today.

Nitrogen oxide content of exhaust fumes on new cars will be limited to 0.25 grams per running kilometre under the new laws. In a recent round of heated exchanges the EEC pointed out that European car manufacturers could not meet the controls by next year, and the issue would lead to a further deterioration in the long-standing trade balance.

### Minister warns public on prices of electrical goods

By Ronald Emiler

Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, advised the public yesterday to take no notice of electrical goods in which it was said that the system was more likely to mislead rather than inform the consumer. However, some makers and retailers still wish to retain the practice.

In his statement Mr Hattersley gave no hint of any sanction being introduced to outlaw the system. Following the Price Commission report he requested a study of the system in all retail sectors.

The commission is still gathering evidence for its report and Mr Hattersley will not decide whether to legislate until it is published. It is widely believed that the commission will recommend retention of the system in some sectors.

### Anglo American and Ransel shares tumble

Prices of shares in Anglo American Corporation and Ransel Selection dropped sharply on the London Stock Exchange yesterday when they were re-listed. Part of the 55p fall to 390p for Ransel was attributed to the liquidation of speculative positions built up in anticipation of the announcement of the Anglo takeover for Ransel.

The terms—a two-for-one share swap—are not particularly generous but more importantly many observers dislike intensely the proposed 80m rand (about £20m) rights issue which Anglo is insisting Ransel makes as a pre-condition to the takeover. Anglo's shares fell 22p to 205p.

De Beers, which is central to the whole plan with its 40 per cent holding in Ransel and which will probably underwrite the rights issue, also suffered from the poor sentiment.

### by Massey strikers atens long shutdown

Ferguson faces indictment of its Coventry factory because of a strike of the gates by Massey strikers.

Company has lost an estimated worth of production of the months long involving workers on the gates. About 1,100 a strike and a further 1,200 remaining shopkeepers and office staff for work yesterday gates padlocked and kept inside the plant. Have been issued 79 named strikers, in the High Court, to regulate possession of multi-story office de the factory, which company's United Kingdom. Some of the

### BP 'unaware' of being listed for cheap Saudi oil

British Petroleum says it is not aware of being on a list to receive cheaper Saudi Arabian crude, either directly or from one of the major United States oil companies which lift Saudi oil. (Reuters reports.)

BP, Royal Dutch/Shell Compagnie Française des Pétroles and the Italian ENI group have been named in press reports as the companies which would be paired with Exxon, Social, Gulf Oil and Texaco to share the advantages of cheaper Saudi oil.

Shell confirms that it is negotiating with Mobil for supplies of Saudi oil.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates decided to raise oil prices on average only 5 per cent instead of the 10 per cent agreed by the other 11 Opec members, and has threatened to increase its output to force down the higher Opec price.

### Covent Garden market body shows £4m loss

By Hugh Clayton

A loss of £4.21m was reported yesterday by the Covent Garden Market Authority, custodians of the largest wholesale fruit and vegetable market in Britain. The announcement came less than a fortnight after a Bill to ease the authority's financial affairs was given a second reading.

An excess of £223,415 of spending over income was reported for the 12 months to the start of October, 1976. Interest on loans, mainly for building the new market at Nine Elms on the south bank, totalled £37.7m. Other expenses included pay of £56,555 to Sir Samuel Colman, chairman of the authority, and £145,577 in staff salaries and pensions.

The Bill, which would write off debts of £13m, came after the authority told the Government more than a year ago that it was doubtful about being able to meet its statutory duty to break even.

### RETAIL PRICES

The following are the index numbers (January 15, 1974=100) for retail prices not seasonally adjusted, compiled by the Department of Employment yesterday:

	(1) All items	(2) Items except seasonal	(3) Annual rate of increase over 6 months ending
1975			
June	137.1	137.1	36.4
July	138.5	138.5	32.1
Aug	139.3	139.7	30.0
Sept	140.5	142.9	27.5
Oct	142.5	145.8	24.9
Nov	144.2	144.5	14.9
Dec	146.0	146.1	13.5
1976			
Jan	147.9	147.6	13.6
Feb	149.8	149.0	13.8
March	150.6	149.5	12.6
April	153.5	152.2	13.8
May	155.2	154.2	13.8
June	156.0	155.4	13.1
July	156.3	156.8	12.9
Aug	158.5	158.5	13.2
Sept	160.6	160.0	14.5
Oct	163.5	162.8	14.4
Nov	165.8	164.8	14.2
Dec	168.0	168.8	15.2

### the markets moved

The Times index: 161.84-0.21  
The FT index: 384.7-2.2

### THE POUND

	Bank	Bank
	buyers	sellers
Australia \$	1.63	1.58
Austria Sch	30.50	28.50
Belgium Fr	66.00	63.00
Canada \$	1.78	1.73
Denmark Kr	10.47	10.67
Finland Mk	6.75	6.50
France Fr	6.77	6.45
Germany Dm	4.29	4.07
Greece Dr	74.00	70.00
Hongkong \$	8.40	7.95
Italy Lr	1610.00	1535.00
Japan Yen	320.00	495.00
Netherlands Gld	4.49	4.27
Norway Kr	9.39	9.03
Portugal Esc	59.50	56.00
S Africa Rd	2.11	1.96
Spain Pes	121.75	113.50
Sweden Kr	7.95	7.20
Switzerland Fr	4.46	4.24
US \$	1.76	1.71
Yugoslavia Dnr	34.75	32.50

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

ded the week quietly.	Gold fell by \$1.25 to \$131.875 an ounce.	Unit Trusts: M & G 19
securities advanced	SDR-5 was 1.15539 on Friday, while SDR-6 was 0.673893.	Reliance Mutual 17
sed 15 points higher at 42.9 effective devalu-	Commodities: Reuters' index closed at 1,608.9 (previously, 1,610.4).	
	Reports, pages 19 and 20	
or pages	Bank Base Rates Table 20	

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**RELiance MUTUAL**



## PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Insurance brokers

## More protection proposed for policyholders

This week the Government published its ideas about the regulation of brokers, agents and others who sell insurance—to give some protection to the insurance buying public.

Over the past few years it has tightened up on insurers in a variety of ways: and, for the individual, there is a "safety net" provided by the Policyholders Protection Act for many types of policy, if a company should run into financial trouble.

But, so far, anybody can call himself an insurance broker, adviser, consultant, or whatever, and sell you insurance—however little he knows about the subject and however little integrity he may have.

The Government proposes to tackle the subject in two phases. First, it would like only those meeting certain standards to be called "insurance brokers": they would be registered.

Then it hopes to tackle the difficult problem of agents, making them at all times the responsibility of the company for which they act. In this way, it hopes to achieve the position where the only people allowed to sell insurance for pecuniary gain would be "registered" brokers, insurance companies and their employees, together with agents of named insurance companies (or of registered brokers) working within the terms of their agency.

State licensing of brokers has been ruled out on the grounds of cost and lack of suitable expertise available to the Department of Trade, and so, in principle, the insurance brokers look like getting their own way, by having their own self-regulating body—as was suggested in a consultative document drawn up by the British Insurance Brokers' Council, representing four of the leading organizations.

Mr John Page, who won first place in the ballot for private members' Bills, has presented a Bill "to provide for the registration of insurance brokers and the regulation of their professional conduct, etc." The Government has said

that, in principle, it is willing to support such a Bill provided there is full public consultation on the scheme proposed before the title "insurance broker" is reserved to registered brokers.

Written comments on the Government's proposals should be in the hands of the Insurance Division of the Department of Trade by the end of March so that, if necessary, they can be taken into account in the later stages of the Bill.

There will be plenty of problems in setting the standards for brokers and the chances are that the system will not be perfect when first introduced. It is anybody's guess as to how many brokers will meet the standards for registration. Of the 9,000 or so firms currently calling themselves insurance brokers the British Insurance Brokers' Council estimated 3,000 to 4,000 might wish to qualify.

My own view is that the Government is thinking in terms of higher standards than, so far, may have been envisaged by the British Insurance Brokers' Council, at all very well to think in terms

of independence, experience, good character and adherence to a code of conduct; but, if the public really is to be protected, what matters is the level of expertise available at counter level.

Will the staff of "registered" insurance brokers really be able to give good advice to those who come in off the street? The large buyers of insurance should be able to look after themselves and, in any event, the best brains in a broker's office probably will be detailed to look after them. Will there be sufficient expertise at the other end of the scale?

Most of those who call themselves insurance brokers hold themselves out as offering disinterested advice to clients about the cover most suited to their needs. Clearly, only those taking this stance will be expected to qualify for registration.

At the moment, there are a number of well-known names in insurance broking tied almost exclusively for certain classes of business to specific insurance companies or syndicates of underwriters at Lloyd's.

Obviously, these schemes offer favourable terms for the broker and may be generally competitive; but they are not necessarily the best for all those who are insured under them. This aspect needs attention if the term "insurance broker" is to gain respect in the future.

The Government has made various proposals about the agents of insurance companies. Curiously, it may be more difficult to regulate those who sell for insurance brokers, often on a part-time basis for a share of the commission and by no means always with an agency agreement.

Sometimes, those in this position are of value to brokers on account of their knowledge of the insurance market. Certainly, this is a point which needs to be settled.

The broking aspect may be tackled first by legislation, leaving the question of agents until a later date. Once the few thousand insurance brokers meeting the required standards have been registered, there will be many thousands of organizations and individuals

selling insurance under a variety of names (although, at that stage, not allowed to call themselves "insurance brokers").

The Government's view is that the best way of controlling those agents is to make them all (ranging from building societies to some of the car dealers which companies are rash enough to appoint as agents) the responsibility of the company for which they act. It suggests that a policyholder would be able to proceed directly against the responsible insurance company—provided the agent had not acted outside the terms of his appointment.

Would this solve the position where an agent, in selling a life policy, verbally says that it will help when the policyholder needs a mortgage—a loan would be forthcoming from the insurance company—when, in fact, that is quite untrue. I suspect a company could wriggle out of that one.

Also, the policyholder could suffer if the agent acted outside the terms of his appointment, despite the fact that the agent would be committing an offence.

Clearly, putting the onus for agents on the shoulders of the companies is a somewhat unsatisfactory compromise, but it is a difficult problem. In public (although perhaps not always in private), many companies talk at length about their selection procedures and their care in the appointment of agents. Such companies feel that a fairly small degree of tightening up on their part will be necessary.

Once, therefore, brokers get registration, they will be able to bang the drum and say that they are meeting tough standards. It should bring them business. But there are areas of the country where the small part-time agent will still have an important part to play (despite his apparent lack of knowledge) simply because it would not be economic for a broker to operate there.

In the long-term it seems as though the Government would like to see some regulation of the standards of agents; but this could prove as elusive as the crack of gold at the end of a rainbow.

John Drummond

Mr. John Page MP Government is will principle to support his members' Bill on the of insurance broke

standing at just short of a dividend, for a run of just over 20 per cent on the other the T. Newall 114 per cent in loan stock 1995-00, a 277 offers a running over 15 per cent.

The British Levian obviously, provides a of risk, but we think it government owning the company, fairly limited, and that it is allowed for in the p. Our shares, however, much more solid, far cause, since we are for income, we don't run any risk of a divi. We have chosen Trust Forte, now selling at 1.41 a flat yield of 9.2 per cent. Grattan Warehouses, a yield of 8.7 per cent.

The selection has a advantage in that the comes in through the year with Leyland and the gilt in March, Grattan and Newall in June and Houses in July.

Adrienne Gle

## Round-up

## Interest rates • Solar Life's debut • Unit trusts' progress

Interest rates are coming down and faster than most people would have expected. Yesterday's three-quarter point cut in minimum lending rate brings it to 13½ per cent as against the 15 per cent crisis level of last October.

The gilt-edged market had been going at a half point cut, and was inclined to attribute the additional quarter point drop to plentiful overseas interest in the Treasury bill tender—more evidence of how London's high rates are attracting the attention of the world now that the new money left in the pound seems to be over.

Gilts have been discounting a fall in rates, particularly at the shorter end, and yesterday's reaction was muted, perhaps surprisingly so, given that the market had spent the morning waiting for the announcement of a "tap" aimed at controlling the short end of the market, just as last week's £125m gilt-edged issue was designed to curb exuberance at the longer end.

But that may have been because, by the time the fact that there would be no short tap was known, it was late in the day for continental interest—and there isn't all that much institutional money left in London for investment these days.

After the orgy of recent buying, the Bank of England and the Government Broker may be giving the market some time for digestion, so, granted a ready pound, we have seen the end of the bull market yet.

With the minimum of fuss and publicity a new insurance company appeared on Monday. There were days in the past when small new insurance companies were two a penny. That's no longer so and the rarity of this new company becomes greater still when one learns that its parent is one of the most august life offices in the country.

Enough of the suspense. Sun Life, established in 1810 and noted today for its traditionalism, has entered the ranks of the unit-linked field with a broad new company called Solar Life. (The first choice of name was Apollo, but that apparently has been preempted by a broking firm.)

All the main life offices are involved in unit-linked business (as Sun Life was historically when it experimented with Sun Life Charterhouse) but most of them do it through the medium of the existing organization.

The big and glowing expectation is the Prudential. Its subsidiary Vanbrugh Life—based in one of the several rescue operations in 1974—has become a very substantial company in the field.

If you believe that linked business and in particular single premium bond business will continue to grow, then it makes much sense to create a new marketing organization behind your product. Others, as well as Sun Life, have looked enviously at Vanbrugh's growth record.

It is no accident that Peter Pummell, the manager appointed to Solar, is a marketing man rather than insurance technician. After discussing its en-



Peter Pummell, manager of Solar Life: a new identity for Sun Life's unit-linked business.

byronic plans with consultants, Sun Life came down heavily in favour of "finding a new identity" and, adds Mr Pummell, "going through brokers only".

It has taken three months only—"much quicker than Sun Life has ever been used to"—comments Mr Pummell—to get Solar's administration off the ground. And an exceptionally flexible system has been devised. Even so, the target launch date of January 1 proved impossible to meet.

However, since news of the new event began to reach brokers on Monday, enquiries have been pouring in. "They welcome one of the giants coming in," says Mr Pummell. Certainly the climate, where security and consumer protection are given higher priority than whizz-kidney, must favour the launch of Solar, with its impeccable pedigree.

Of course, no new company can be better than its products (as Solar's parent is Sun Life Assurance Managed Funds—a group of five insurance companies with higher commission rates despite the fact that it is a new company). It is offering three contracts including a single premium policy and a contractual savings scheme, which can be linked to any of five types of property, managed, equity, fixed interest or cash.

The investment management will be with the same team which looks after the Sun Life Assurance Managed Funds—specialist products for pension funds—which has outperformed all other similar managed funds over both a one and three year period.

The big and glowing expectation is the Prudential. Its subsidiary Vanbrugh Life—based in one of the several rescue operations in 1974—has become a very substantial company in the field.

If you believe that linked business and in particular single premium bond business will continue to grow, then it makes much sense to create a new marketing organization behind your product. Others, as well as Sun Life, have looked enviously at Vanbrugh's growth record.

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During 1976 net new investment in unit trusts was £167m, with the pattern of investment performance. As the table shows, net sales of £14.4m in December compared with £5m in October.

The unit trust industry managed to boost the value of its funds under management—just during 1976. At the end of 1975 these were valued at £2,512.4m. Twelve months later the figure had risen to £2,543m, a modest enough gain of £31m, but positive at least compared with the 4 per cent drop in the FT All-Share index. It fails to take into account the number of people who hold unit trust indirectly through the tax-efficient linked life assurance vehicle.

MS

## High income portfolio

## Good yield, security, spread and growing income

With interest rates unlikely to hold their present heights much longer, those who want to invest for income ought to be doing so now. And with this in mind we are this week starting a new portfolio, the object of which is, with certain qualifications, to provide the maximum possible return on capital.

Obviously this is likely to be of most interest to people who are supplying the luxuries, or perhaps even the necessities of life out of the income on a fairly small capital sum. But the principles are the same for anyone with savings whose first priority is income now.

Our search for maximum income will be qualified in two important respects. First, what we are looking for is the highest income commensurate with a reasonable degree of safety. It is possible, but some can see stocks at prices which will give a gross annual return of over 20 per cent.

But the size of the return is to a large extent a measure of the safety or, in this case, the lack of it. The investment which provides it. And there is no point in investing £5,000 for a return of over £1,000 a

year if the income and capital alike have gone down the drain within six months.

So let us simply the size of the yield which will determine our choice of investment. It is, however, possible to go too far the other way, for impeccable security generally means small opportunities. So we are going to round this problem by splitting our portfolio (a notional £15,000) up into five holdings of £3,000 each, thereby spreading the risks associated with any one choice.

This way, too, we can satisfy the second important qualification to the desire to maximize income now, which is, that some provision should be made for growth of income in the future.

After three years of galloping inflation, the reasons are obvious enough: the problem is how to set about it.

For the only form of investment which offers the possibility of a consistently rising return is the equity, and the expectation of higher returns is reflected in higher prices (and thus lower yields) now. In effect, providing for an element of income growth

Fixed interest portfolio		Running
	Price	yield
Treasury 15½%		%
1998	£110	14.1
Brit Leyland 8½		
unsec loan		
1998-03	£39½	20.2
Turner & Newall		
11½% unsec		
loan 1995-00	£77½	15.1
Tst Ms Forte	123p	9.2
Grattan Warehs	84p	8.7

will mean that the aggregate initial yield on our portfolio will be lower than it would be otherwise; but we should gain in the long run.

Paradoxical though it may sound, it doesn't make sense for those who want a high money income from their investment to invest for income alone. This is because of the tax position, which ensures that the greater part of a high unearned income goes straight to the Inland Revenue.

The definition of "high" is, of course, a difficulty because it

depends so much on individual circumstances. But if we take a married couple short of retirement age with no income other than the return on their investment and no tax reliefs other than their personal allowances, then their marginal rate of tax will be 30 per cent before their gross income tops £3,000 and over 50 per cent once it tops £5,000.

This is because in addition to basic rate tax they will have to pay an investment income surcharge of 10 per cent on taxable income of between £1,000 and £2,000, and 15 per cent on the rest. This does not, of course, mean that such a couple should not invest for a high return once their taxable income tops the £1,000 mark. But it does mean that they should soon start thinking in terms of capital gains (taxable at 30 per cent) and, preferably, taxable gains on gilts (exempt from tax if you hold them for more than a year and a day).

The position for those who are of retirement age is, fortunately, rather less onerous. This is primarily because their personal allowances are higher (unsecured loan stock 1998-03, now

standing at just short of a dividend, for a run of just over 20 per cent on the other the T. Newall 114 per cent in loan stock 1995-00, a 277 offers a running over 15 per cent.

The British Levian obviously, provides a of risk, but we think it government owning the company, fairly limited, and that it is allowed for in the p. Our shares, however, much more solid, far cause, since we are for income, we don't run any risk of a divi. We have chosen Trust Forte, now selling at 1.41 a flat yield of 9.2 per cent. Grattan Warehouses, a yield of 8.7 per cent.

The selection has a advantage in that the comes in through the year with Leyland and the gilt in March, Grattan and Newall in June and Houses in July.

Adrienne Gle

## Is it love that makes the multinational go round?

A friend of mine has recently returned from a developing country where he is the senior representative of a large multinational company. He was required to make a presentation of his corporate objectives for the local subsidiary covering the next five years to the people here in head office.

Being a forward-thinking individual, he included in his presentation a statement of aims with regard to corporate responsibility—the actions of the company as they might affect the workforce, the supplier, the consumer and the public in general.

The multinational in question has already embraced this main concept, the idea of a broader corporate responsibility, so what might seem fairly obvious to him, his colleagues and members into four precise and bustling camps.

In the first category were those who were so disgusted that they had to fight back the impulse to get up and walk out, totally unable to take so blasphemous a statement against all the hallowed concepts of Mammion.

The second group were deeply embarrassed and sat there

brick red and unable to look at each other, fondly hoping that the ground would open up and swallow them, or, preferably, swallow the speaker.

The third group felt exactly the same but suffered even more because they also felt guilty about feeling exactly the same.

A fourth lot leapt to their feet with a cheer and shouted out: "At last somebody has had the courage to say what I've been thinking for years!"

So what is love as a business proposition? It is not simply a sort of fluffy charity—a random attempt to make the world a better place, to feel warm and human, however, at the other end of the scale, neither is it a public relations exercise designed to show the world how beautiful and concerned these big companies all are, and how misundestood, poor darlings.

What we are talking about is a straightforward management exercise in reacting promptly and efficiently to an outside stimulus. The problem is that

as yet there are few people who are actually stimulated into action by the trigger concerned.

If capitalism is to survive at all, it has to develop so that it pays attention to the environment in which it is beginning to find itself. And that environment is not one conducive to the success of any enterprise, either public or private, that feels itself at liberty to restrict its planning merely to the attainment of its own primary business objectives.

Those who disregard this

message and omit to work out what should be their part-formed duty as corporate citizens will find that their primary business objectives will frustratingly not be reached; because workers and consumers and suppliers and governments and the public in general will tie them in knots, simply because they have not moved voluntarily and in their own time in the right direction.

The successful company of the 1980s is going to have to make corporate affairs and

corporate responsibility the major plank of its

Francis Kins

UNIT TRUST SALES

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EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

restor's week

## Market overcomes profit-taking

week, which had the FT 100 ending a six-month peak on Wednesday, was characterized by the contrasting professional and general public. The professional, in the main, preferred to stay beyond the country's economic problems, but the general public, who were heavily into the market, were heavily into the market, and the market was heavily into the market.

There were few big-name companies reporting figures. One which did was Rank and Bullish profits coupled with encouraging indications for the more troublesome non-Xerox activities helped the shares to spurt 27p to 178p over the week.

Elsewhere in the sector, Raytheon, a maker of equipment for power stations, sprang to life on suggestions that its turbo interests should be merged with others in the field. The shares rose 12 1/2p to 137 1/2p and GEC, another affected, gained 8p to 178p. In the food sector the main event of the week was figures from Tate & Lyle, the last before the hard-won Manbré & Carton shares to make a contribution.

The figures proved to be slightly disappointing and the shares advanced only 8p to 270p, but on the retail side Sainsbury gained 14p to 156p in the hope that an easing of costs, notably wages, will bring a much better year.

Allied Breweries' £164m vote of confidence in the country's future brought surprisingly little response from the shares which ended the week at 65 1/2p up 1 1/2p.

Some building shares were helped by their export potential. The shares of the cement trade, Taylor Woodrow at 256p, and Costain at 147p up 13p, outstanding. Others saw demand on their high yield, but after several days of takeover speculation a bid denial from Travis & Imeson lowered the shares 18p to 94p.

In oils the star performer was Barmah which rose 11p to 58p before and after news of United States finance for new tanker buildings.

Merchant banks, in particular Hambros at 168p up 26p, were in demand. But a word of warning here. The markets are notoriously this and rises tend to exaggerate the level of business.

David Mott

## MAIN RISES AND FALLS OF THE WEEK

Year's	Company	Movement	Comment
28p	Burmah	58p+11p	US backing for tankers
170p	De La Rue	288p+31p	Demand ahead of figures
103p	Hambros	168p+26p	Firm sector
97p	Rank	178p+27p	Good figures and statement
340p	Unilever	444p+24p	Chancellor's tax hint

Year's	Company	Movement	Comment
273p	ANZ Group	273p-24p	£19m rights issue
115p	Gestlner "A"	149p-17p	Comment on results
47p	Golden Hope	80p-9p	Profit taking
88p	Travis & Arnold	94p-18p	Bid denial
125p	Welkom	125p-20p	Weak goods

since January 22, 1976 offer to bid, income restructured, since February 1977 offer to bid, income restructured, since February 1977 offer to bid, income restructured.

## Stock markets

## Now for the second liners as leaders start to puff

Equities ended the week in a disappointing fashion, even though the three-quarter point cut in MLR stopped prices drifting too far in late trading. By the close, the FT 100 was 2.2 off at 364.7, but still higher by 20.8 over what has been an eventful week. Dealers said that having run ahead of the market for some weeks, the "blue chips" were largely

From 49p to 60p in a week have come the shares in Aurora Holdings, the engineer recently on the takeover trail with East Sussex coming under its wing last autumn. The rise reflects broking support on the theory that in the 18 months to December profits were around £12m after a 11.3 per cent gain to a record £14.5m in the first 12 months. But the yield has now dropped to 11 per cent.

Now that interest rate hopes have been realized most market men expect a quieter performance next week. A newly-won ground is consolidated. They look to the clearing banks to reduce base rates in the next few days.

## Briefly

**G. T. JAPAN INV TRUST**  
Pre-tax profit for half year to December 31 rose from £28,000 to £32,000. Earnings a share 0.75p (0.72p). Dividend 0.7p (0.73p) gross.

**LOWLAND INVESTMENT**  
Gross income for three months to December 31, £119,000 (£99,000). Earnings a share 0.75p (0.72p). Dividend 0.7p (0.73p) gross.

**RAEBURN INV**  
Net revenue for year to November 30, £104m (£97,000). Earnings a share 0.55p (0.46p). Dividend 0.5p (0.45p). Dividend up from 4.55p gross to 5.15p.

**M. YOUNG HOLDINGS**  
On turnover steady at £14m, pre-tax losses of £15,000 to £48,000 in half year to May 31.

**CORN EXCHANGE**  
Pre-tax profit for 1976, £316,000 (£290,000). Earnings a share 6.37p (4.3p). Dividend is raised from 2.49p to 2.74p gross.

**GNOME PHOTOGRAPHIC**  
Sales for half year to November 30, £26,000 (£47,000). Pre-tax profit £14,500 (£26,000).

**RELIABLE PROPERTIES**  
Accounts for year to June 1976 delayed by winter delay in auditing queries, but board meeting provisionally convened for February 24 to consider draft.

**SUTER ELECTRICAL**  
Turnover for half year to September 25, £525,000 (£529,000). Pre-tax profit £44,000 (£42,000). Earnings a share 0.63p (0.57p).

**GEO WHITEHOUSE**  
Accounts for period to July 3 should be issued to shareholders in first fortnight of February.

**CRONITE GROUP**  
Cronite has agreed to buy 700 shares of interest in Forsythe (Tool Steels) of Sheffield from M. J. Dobson, a director of Cronite, for £42,000 in shares.

**AMALGAMATED TIN**  
Board of Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria has decided not to declare an interim dividend to defer consideration of any dividend until the audited figures for the year to March 31, 1977, are available.

**BEST & MAY SLIPS**  
On turnover of £122m against £118m for half to end October, pre-tax profit of £92,000 against £96,000. Interim dividend of 0.77p against 0.7p.

**LONDON AUSTRALIA INV**  
Net profit of \$A702,000 against \$A730,000 for year to December 31. Total dividend unchanged at 9 pence.

**IMPERIAL CANCELLATION**  
Imperial Cancellation has agreed to cancel £2.5m nominal of 4 per cent unsecured loan stock, 1975-80, and £1.5m nominal of 3 per cent unsecured loan stock, 1982-85.

**CELESTION IN US**  
To develop successful penetration of United States market by its Canadian distributor, Rocolet of Montreal, new subsidiary formed, Celestion Industries Inc.

**SINGER DISPOSAL**  
Singer has sold substantially all the assets of its printing division to Spencer Wright Industries Inc. This is a new group in which some former members of division, including Mr. Spencer Wright, vice-president of the division, have a majority interest.

**ATLANTIC ASSETS TRUST**  
Pre-tax revenue for half to December 31 of £36,000 against £33,000. Figures not comparable because of structural changes in last 18 months. Income for half-year should not be taken as indication of full year's results. Board intends to pay unchanged total dividend of 0.4p. Net assets a share after deducting prior charges at per were 95p against 57p.

**STEETLEY COMPANY**  
The Steetley Company has acquired for £350,000 D.H. Industries, a private firm of premises in Barking, Essex which is engaged in the distribution of equipment for the paint, aerosol, adhesive, foodstuff and chemical industries. These activities are complementary to those of Steetley's industrial distribution business.

**LAMPA SECURITIES**  
First distribution of 90p a share will be made on February 7. Liquidator reported.

**CONCRETE**  
Concrete's offers for Dowsett Piling and Foundations have become unconditional.

**LONDON ATLANTIC**  
London Atlantic Investment Trust reports gross revenue up from £226,000 to £274,000 for half-year to December 31 last.

Government bond prices advanced modestly in the wake of the 1 per cent point cut in the Minimum Lending Rate, to 13 1/2 per cent. A fall of this order had been largely discounted. Prices hesitated on the news of this fall.

However, at the close of business, long-dated stocks were showing net rises of 1 point, but medium-dated stocks were as much as 1 point better. Undated stocks were 1 point higher on the day. The new "long tap" gained 1 point.

It was level with the official selling price, but the Government had to have sold significant amounts of this stock. Short-dated stocks were up about 1 to 1 1/2 point.

The cut in MLR was already discounted by the clearing banks with the result that Barclays fell 5p to 280p, Lloyds 2p to 277p and Midland 2p to 282p. National Westminster held steady at 237p.

Elsewhere in the sector, Bank of Scotland went against the trend with a rise of 3p to 263p and with the benefit of lower interest rates. The bank's financial firm 2p to 76p. In merchants, Schroders ended 10p to the good at 315p, but two financial issues in decline were

unchanged at 435p, ICI down a penny to 355p and Becham which was lowered 2p to 398p. Ahead of figures soon, BAT Industries firmed 2p to 274p.

In the building sector, there were two firm spots in Erith 8p to 63p and International Paint which ended another 20p to the good at 370p after its Japanese deal. But Travis & Arnold continued to slip after its bid denial earlier in the week and the shares gave up another 2p to 94p.

On the electrical pitch, Thorn "A" rose 10p to 238p on a "bear" squeeze, while Rank continued to reflect results and put on another 3p to 178p. The best of engineers were

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## Stirring finish

## at Sidlaw

## doubles profits

Forecasts of a good second half at Sidlaw Industries have been fulfilled. Earnings have jumped to £718,000 hoisted pre-tax profits for the year to October 1 to £118m from £555,000.

Turnover went up from £44.4m to £48.6m, including £10.3m, against £38.8m from associated companies. Earnings a share were 9.02p against 6.17p.

The board recommends a dividend of 8.28p gross against 7.68p and says that in early months of this year there has been no major change in performance.

The board notes that the pre-tax profits included £258,000 from the sale of assets. Those mainly related to property developments in Aberdeen. Interest charges rose from £908,000 to £912,000.

After extraordinary items of £79,000 against £17,000, and tax, but before £120,000 of reserve movements, against £174,000, retained profits went up from £55,000 to £100,000.

At half time, when pre-tax profits rose 63 per cent to £462,000, the textiles division was said to be doing better, while the North Sea oil services side had beaten its budgeted income and should be financed in its reduced form loss money, and only modest profits came from hardware and packaging.

Sidlaw is in hand a big modernization plan for the textile interests. This will span 18 months and should be financed from internal resources. A grant is to be offered by the Scottish Economic Planning Department.

## Beaver and CH part

The directors of Beaver Group and CH have agreed that talks which might have led to a merger have stopped.

News of the talks came at the beginning of the month. It pushed Beaver's up 4p to 41p and CH 2p to 27p. CH is the old Coventry Engineering, which is in paint, building and chemicals. They would have had a combined capitalization of £2.23m.

## Payout slashed but Assoc Paper pulls round

By Tony May  
In the first quarter of this year Associated Paper Industries made money. But in the year to October 2 it turned pre-tax profits of £587,000 into losses of £436,000.

They included £170,000 losses from Edward Collins & Sons, against a loss of £190,000. The dividend dives from 4p gross to 2.31p.

Turnover slipped from £27,090 to £26,738, including £14,930 from the now closed-down Edward Collins group, compared with £3.3m.

At half-time the group made a loss of £18,000 compared with a pre-tax profit of £737,000 of turnover down from £12.6m to £12.3m. The interim dividend was halved to 0.77p. Mr K. L. Young, the chairman, said that lots of the group's business still suffered from the recession in the industry, and that trading prospects were obscure.

Interim results did not include Edward Collins. It had made a trading loss of £159,000 in the half-year, and in addition had incurred extraordinary expenditure of £138,000 after tax relief. This was mostly share-advance pay for employees.

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[illegible]











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Winter Sales 23

**BIRTHS**

CASSELL—On January 20th, a daughter, Sarah Jane, to Mr. and Mrs. J. H. CasSELL, 10, The Grange, Wokingham, Berks.

MORRIS—On January 20th, a son, Robert James, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Morris, 10, The Grange, Wokingham, Berks.

ROBERTS—On January 20th, a son, Robert James, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Roberts, 10, The Grange, Wokingham, Berks.

**MARRIAGES**

FERRAZZA—BLAND—On January 20th, at the Parish Church of St. Andrew, Wokingham, Berks, the marriage of Mr. J. Ferrazza and Mrs. B. Bland.

**DEATHS**

ALINGTON—On January 21st, at home, in Marlborough, Wokingham, Berks, Mr. J. Alington, aged 75.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 14,512

1 Across: 6 Words for this song (9, 3).

2 Down: A solitary type embraces Mr. French, social worker (7).

3 Across: Perhaps hermit appears sort of acid about Sunday opening (7).

4 Down: Dickensian gives audible warning of approach (5).

5 Across: Welsh rice cooked by Bentley (9).

6 Down: Light sort of tree in Dyfed (8).

7 Across: Something with which to thrash the grain? (4).

8 Down: A measure to combat crime (4).

9 Across: Critic with second sight? (7).

10 Down: National leader I'd put in now? (9).

11 Across: Letter of deposit between banks, maybe (3).

12 Down: Falls in perhaps with a Georgia painter? (7).

13 Across: Stone supplied by Tangier builder? (5).

14 Down: Some tasty leisure-wear fashion? (5).

15 Across: Tanager's wrong about church coming to life again (9).

DEATHS

**DAVIDSON**—On January 21st, at home, in Marlborough, Wokingham, Berks, Mr. J. Davidson, aged 75.

**DOUGLAS**—On January 21st, at home, in Marlborough, Wokingham, Berks, Mr. J. Douglas, aged 75.

**DEATHS**

**WILLIAMS**—On January 21st, at home, in Marlborough, Wokingham, Berks, Mr. J. Williams, aged 75.

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